

# ROSE AND CIRIACO HERRERA: LIFE IN EUREKA, 1920S-1950S

Interviewee: Ciriaco Herrera and Rose Herrera

Interviewed: 1987

Published: 1988

Interviewer: Gretchen Holbert

UNOHP Catalog #147

## Description

In the center of Nevada, seventy miles due east of Austin, lies the town of Eureka, which takes its name from the Greek exclamation, "I have found it!" Founded in 1869 on the site of an important silver and lead discovery, Eureka boasted 10,000 citizens only a decade later, and its mines were producing over \$2 million worth of ore annually. By 1885 the boom was over, but economic decline was more gradual for Eureka than for most boom-and-bust mining towns in Nevada. Continuing improvements in mining and ore reduction techniques resulted in irregular intervals of prosperity through the mid-twentieth century, while Eureka's location on a principal east-west highway sustained the community during periods of mining inactivity.

During the nineteenth century, the Eureka mining district was noted for the high percentage of foreign-born residents among its population. Many Italians emigrated to the area, most of them to produce the charcoal that was essential to mining and milling. Rose Tognoni's maternal grandparents were among this group, and Rose was born on Italian Creek, several miles east of Eureka, in 1908. In 1925 she met Ciriaco Herrera, who was born in 1904 and had emigrated to the area from Spain with his sister in 1920. Rose and Ciriaco married in 1926. For the next thirty-four years the couple lived in Eureka, raised a large family, and earned a living in a variety of ways. In 1946 they purchased the Eureka Garage, operating it until they moved to Reno in 1960.

In this oral history with Rose and Ciriaco Herrera, the reader will find vivid recollections of many of the people and events which gave Eureka its identity from 1910 to 1960. There are some revealing passages about the influence of A. C. Florio (a regional land and livestock baron) on the economic and judicial dynamics of the period; social and economic change over time is discussed; attention is paid to the role of ethnicity in the development of the area; and, of course, Herrera family history is given its due. The result is an interesting and informative portrait of a once-thriving Nevada community during a period when its economic base was eroded and its population declined by 60 percent.



**ROSE AND CIRIACO HERRERA:  
LIFE IN EUREKA, 1920S-1950S**

---



# **ROSE AND CIRIACO HERRERA: LIFE IN EUREKA, 1920S-1950S**

MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY A GRANT FROM DR. CARL HERRERA

An Oral History Conducted by Gretchen Holbert  
Edited by R.T. King

University of Nevada Oral History Program

Copyright 1988  
University of Nevada Oral History Program  
Mail Stop 0324  
Reno, Nevada 89557  
unohp@unr.edu  
<http://www.unr.edu/oralhistory>

All rights reserved. Published 1988.  
Printed in the United States of America

Publication Staff:  
Director: R.T. King  
Program Coordinators: Helen Blue and Shelley Chase  
Text Production: Linda Sommer and Kay Stone

### **University of Nevada Oral History Program Use Policy**

All UNOHP interviews are copyrighted materials. They may be downloaded and/or printed for personal reference and educational use, but not republished or sold. Under "fair use" standards, excerpts of up to 1000 words may be quoted for publication without UNOHP permission as long as the use is non-commercial and materials are properly cited. The citation should include the title of the work, the name of the person or people interviewed, the date of publication or production, and the fact that the work was published or produced by the University of Nevada Oral History Program (and collaborating institutions, when applicable). Requests for permission to quote for other publication, or to use any photos found within the transcripts, should be addressed to the UNOHP, Mail Stop 0324, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV 89557-0324. Original recordings of most UNOHP interviews are available for research purposes upon request.

---

## CONTENTS

Preface to the Digital Edition	ix
Original Preface	xi
Introduction	xiii
1. Rose Herrera: Family and Youth	1
Ancestors	
Brothers and Sisters	
Youth in Eureka County: 1908-1926	
2. Ciriaco Herrera: Family and Youth	11
Parents	
Brothers and Sisters	
Youth in Eureka: 1920-1926	
3. Rose and Ciriaco Herrera Marry and Start a Family: 1926-1932	17
4. Employment and Life in Eureka: 1920s-1930s	21
A. C. Florio: Sheep and Cattle Disputes	
Ethnic Groups	
5. Operating the Eureka Garage and a Ranch in Fallon: 1934-1946	33
Violence in Eureka	
The War Years	

6. The Herrera Service Station: 1946-1960	37
7. Epilogue	41
Photographs	47
Appendix A: Family Chronology	53
Appendix B: Regional Spanish Folk Poems	57
Original Index: For Reference Only	61



---

## PREFACE TO THE DIGITAL EDITION

Established in 1964, the University of Nevada Oral History Program (UNOHP) explores the remembered past through rigorous oral history interviewing, creating a record for present and future researchers. The program's collection of primary source oral histories is an important body of information about significant events, people, places, and activities in twentieth and twenty-first century Nevada and the West.

The UNOHP wishes to make the information in its oral histories accessible to a broad range of patrons. To achieve this goal, its transcripts must speak with an intelligible voice. However, no type font contains symbols for physical gestures and vocal modulations which are integral parts of verbal communication. When human speech is represented in print, stripped of these signals, the result can be a morass of seemingly tangled syntax and incomplete sentences—totally verbatim transcripts sometimes verge on incoherence. Therefore, this transcript has been lightly edited.

While taking great pains not to alter meaning in any way, the editor may have removed false starts, redundancies, and the “uhs,” “ahs,” and other noises with which speech is often liberally sprinkled; compressed some passages which, in unaltered form, misrepresent the chronicler's meaning; and relocated some material to place information in its intended context. Laughter is represented with [laughter] at the end of a sentence in which it occurs, and ellipses are used to indicate that a statement has been interrupted or is incomplete...or that there is a pause for dramatic effect.

As with all of our oral histories, while we can vouch for the authenticity of the interviews in the UNOHP collection, we advise readers to keep in mind that these are remembered pasts, and we do not claim that the recollections are entirely free of error. We can state, however, that the transcripts accurately reflect the oral history recordings on which they were based. Accordingly, each transcript should be approached with the

same prudence that the intelligent reader exercises when consulting government records, newspaper accounts, diaries, and other sources of historical information. All statements made here constitute the remembrance or opinions of the individuals who were interviewed, and not the opinions of the UNOHP.

In order to standardize the design of all UNOHP transcripts for the online database, most have been reformatted, a process that was completed in 2012. This document may therefore differ in appearance and pagination from earlier printed versions. Rather than compile entirely new indexes for each volume, the UNOHP has made each transcript fully searchable electronically. If a previous version of this volume existed, its original index has been appended to this document for reference only. A link to the entire catalog can be found online at <http://oralhistory.unr.edu/>.

For more information on the UNOHP or any of its publications, please contact the University of Nevada Oral History Program at Mail Stop 0324, University of Nevada, Reno, NV, 89557-0324 or by calling 775/784-6932.

Alicia Barber  
Director, UNOHP  
July 2012

---

## ORIGINAL PREFACE

The University of Nevada Oral History Program (UNOHP) engages in systematic interviewing of persons who can provide firsthand accounts or descriptions of events, people and places that are the raw material of Nevada history. The products of this research are the tapes of the interviews and their transcriptions.

In themselves, oral history interviews are not history; however, they often contain valuable primary source material, as useful in the process of historiography as the written records with which historians customarily work. While the properly conducted oral history is a reliable source, verifying the accuracy of all of the statements made in the course of an interview would require more time and money than the UNOHP's operating budget permits. The program can vouch that the statements were made, but it does not assert that they are all entirely free of error. Accordingly, oral histories should be approached with the same caution that the reader exercises when consulting government

records, newspaper accounts, diaries and other sources of historical information.

When human speech is captured in print, the result can be a morass of tangled syntax, false starts and incomplete sentences, sometimes verging on incoherence. No type font contains symbols for the physical gestures and diverse vocal modulations which are integral parts of communication through speech. Experience shows that, in the absence of any orthography for such non-verbal communication, totally verbatim transcripts are often largely unreadable and subsequently a waste of the resources expended in their production. Therefore, in the interest of facilitating their use, it is the policy of the UNOHP to produce finished oral histories that are substantially refined versions of the direct transcriptions from which they derive. Editors are instructed to keep before them the ideal of a verbatim narrative, but they will, in preparing a text:

- a. generally delete false starts, redundancies and the uhs, ahs and other

noises with which speech is often liberally sprinkled;

b. occasionally compress language that would be confusing to the reader in unaltered form;

c. often shift portions of a transcript to place them in their proper topical or chronological context;

d. for clarity, insert words that can be clearly inferred but were not spoken; and

e. enclose in [brackets] explanatory information or words that were neither uttered nor implied, but have been added by the editor to render the text intelligible.

Each edited oral history is reviewed for accuracy by the interviewee before a final master copy is produced. Nonetheless, the UNOHP realizes that there will be some researchers who prefer to take their oral history straight, without even the limited editing that occurred in the production of this text; they are directed to the tape recording. Copies of all or part of this work and the tape recording from which it is derived are available from:

The University of Nevada  
Oral History Program  
Mailstop 0324  
University of Nevada, Reno 89557  
(775) 784-6932

---

## INTRODUCTION

In the center of Nevada, 70 miles due east of Austin, lies the town of Eureka, which takes its name from the Greek exclamation, "I have found it!" Given Eureka's barren surroundings and its many decaying structures, today's traveler would be justified in questioning the inspiration for such a self-congratulatory name; however, the town was once the second most prosperous community in the state. Founded in 1869 on the site of an important silver and lead discovery, Eureka boasted 10,000 citizens only a decade later, and its mines were producing over \$2 million worth of ore annually. By 1885 the boom was over, but economic decline was more gradual for Eureka than for most boom-and-bust mining towns in Nevada. Continuing improvements in mining and ore reduction techniques resulted in irregular intervals of prosperity through mid-twentieth century, while Eureka's location on a principal east-west highway sustained the community during periods of mining inactivity.

During the nineteenth century, the Eureka mining district was noted for the high

percentage of foreign-born residents among its population. Many Italians emigrated to the area, most of them to produce the charcoal that was essential to mining and milling. Rose Tognoni's maternal grandparents were among this group, and Rose was born on Italian Creek, several miles east of Eureka, in 1908. In 1925 she met Ciriaco Herrera, who had emigrated to the area from Spain with his sister in 1920. Rose and Ciriaco married in 1926. For the next 34 years the couple lived in Eureka, raised a large family, and earned a living in a variety of ways. In 1946 they purchased the Eureka Garage, operating it until they moved to Reno in 1960.

The University of Nevada Oral History Program attempts to record information on a broad range of topics that will illuminate the history of every region in the state. In this oral history with Rose and Ciriaco Herrera, conducted by Gretchen Holbert in 1987, the reader will find vivid recollections of many of the people and events which gave Eureka its identity from 1910 to 1960. There are some revealing passages about the influence of A.

C. Florio (a regional land and livestock baron) on the economic and judicial dynamics of the period; social and economic change over time is discussed; attention is paid to the role of ethnicity in the development of the area; and, of course, Herrera family history is given its due. The result is an interesting and informative portrait of a once-thriving Nevada community during a period when its economic base was eroded and its population declined by 60 percent. Readers should consult the UNOHP Master Index for references to other oral histories about Eureka.

Rose and Ciriaco Herrera's son, Dr. Carl Herrera, made a generous gift to the Oral History Program in 1987. This gift was used to defray the production costs of the Herrera oral history, and for this the program is indebted. Nevada is fortunate to include among its citizens such patrons of history as Carl Herrera. Were it not for private support similar to that which facilitated the creation of this volume, much of the state's history would go unrecorded.

R. T. King  
UNOHP Director  
February 22, 1988



ROSE AND CIRIACO HERRERA





---

## ROSE HERRERA: FAMILY AND YOUTH

### ANCESTORS

Rose Herrera: My mother's maiden name was Bernardina (Lena) Caviglia. Her mother was a Repetto, and her father a Caviglia. We didn't have too much to do with the Repettos. There was a Ben Repetto, a John Repetto, a Lawrence Repetto, and a Pete Repetto. In fact, some of them are still in California. My sister went to Genoa, Italy, and she visited some of the Repettos.

My grandmother was married to Bernardo Caviglia. He passed away when my mother was just a couple of years old, and my grandmother married Angelo Borgna. I knew of my grandmother when I was a very young child, but when I was five or six years old, or something like that, that was the last time that I ever went to visit her or the last time that she ever had anything to do with me.... I don't know what happened.

My mother was born in 1888. I don't know for sure if she was born up at Prospect, or if she and her sister were born in Eureka. [Prospect Peak is about 5 miles south of

Eureka, in the Fish Creek Range.—Ed.] But I know all the Borgnas were born up at Prospect—all of her half brothers and sisters.

My mother lived up at Prospect with them until she got married in 1907. She never said too much about the Prospect mine. My mother had to work hard as a child, because she was the oldest and she had to help raise the rest of the family. She took care of those Borgnas, and her stepfather was not very nice to her. After her mother got married, she wasn't too nice to her, either. My mother made her own life. She worked hard and raised her own family and minded her own business. According to what my mother told me, we used to go to Prospect and visit Grandma. It finally got to the point where you could see that Mother wasn't welcome, so she just quit going. It was very sad.

My dad, Antonio (Tony) Tognoni, was born in Italy, and he never did get to go back. He would tell us about where he was born in Dalo—in the Alps above Chiavenna. I don't think my dad or my grandfather came over here directly; they were down south in

Duckwater. [Duckwater is in Duckwater Valley, seven miles south of the northern border of Nye County, Nevada.—Ed.] I don't know why he came to this country. At that time they used to go out and cut pine and make charcoal and sell it. I don't remember my grandfather. He must have gone back to the Old Country before I was born. His name was also Giovanni Antonio Tognoni, like my father.

My father was very partial to his mother. After his mother died, I don't think he even cared about going back to Italy at all. He had a sister over there that he really liked, but Mama always wrote for him. Mama would write in Italian. They kept in touch with all the people over there, but it would take months to get mail back and forth. In fact, he even sent for his birth certificate and different things. He had property over there, which was part of the old house and the land that was there. When he died it was left to us kids. The family is still fighting for it.

*Gretchen Holbert: Did you ever get to see the family home when you went back to the Old Country?*

Yes. It was the biggest thrill. We walked up the Alps right up to the place where my dad was born in his little old house. It was just the same as it had been before. They didn't have any stove anywhere, or a cook stove or anything. It was just a fireplace with a pot hanging over the top of the fire. My cousin was up there. She showed me the corner where one of the beds had been where my father was born. We saw the old church close to our house. It's a beautiful spot on the top of the Alps—all green and really beautiful.

*Were your father's family farmers?*

Yes. They were poor people. They just didn't have much of anything. If they had an animal or two, you know....

*Is that probably why he emigrated?*

Yes. His father was over here, I think, but his brother and sister never did come over here. There must have been quite a big difference in their ages. He was quite a bit older than they.

### **BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

I was the oldest of 11 children. Three died as infants; eight of us grew up. The second one next to me in the family is my sister Elva—she passed away in 1984; then my brother Elmo—he passed away in 1986; then Baptista—he was an assemblyman, and he passed away in 1955. Gladyce was next, then Angelo, then Raymond and Liberty, who both passed away as infants. Pauline was next and she died March 30, 1987. Joseph passed away in 1982. Irene was only six months old when she passed away; she was born in 1929, and she passed away in 1930.

Elva married Frank Recend and had one daughter, Frances. This daughter has four children—two girls and two boys: Phillip, Lisa, Douglas and Dierdre.

Elmo was married to Elizabeth Tobin, and she had twins, Phyllis and Tom, and one other boy, Bruce. Tom has two boys, and Phyllis had seven children and lost two. Bruce, Elmo's oldest boy, has three children. Elmo's wife passed away in 1969, and he married Irene, formerly a Bianucci of Carlin, in 1975. They had no children of their own; they had children from previous marriages, but not with each other.

Baptista was never married. Gladyce married Joe Gonzalez, and she has two sons

and a daughter: Dale, Antonio and Carmen. The daughter never married; the oldest son has four children, and the youngest son has a son and a daughter.

Angelo is married to Paco's [Ciriaco Herrera's] niece, Emilia, and they have two daughters and a son: Cecile, Charlotte and Tony. They lost a son in 1964. After playing football, he developed an aneurysm at 17 years old. Cecile is married to Tom Johnston, and she has two children—Cindy and Tommy. Charlotte is married to Grant Crutchley, and she has a daughter, Tammy, and a son, Charlie. Tony is married to Marilyn Sharp, and they have three little boys.

Pauline was married to Edgar Siri. She had a son, Kenny, who has two boys, and a son, Billy, who has two girls.

Joe married Grace Clark. She had a boy and two girls. The boy, Lewis, had two sons and a daughter. Gladyce—the daughter—has a boy and a girl that survived, and she lost a little boy in a drowning accident two years ago. Annette married Gary Bowers, and she has one child left that survives. The other one was also in the drowning accident. The two cousins were both drowned at the same time in 1985.

*How many of your brothers and sisters stayed in Eureka?*

Elva moved to Ely; Elmo moved to Carlin; Gladyce went to California; Angelo stayed in Eureka; Pauline left, and Joe stayed in Eureka. So there were only Baptista, Angelo, Joe, and I who stayed in Eureka. Angelo and his family are still in Eureka—but not all his family: his son is down here in Reno. Joe's widow and her two children are still in Eureka, and Joe's other daughter lives in Fernley.<sup>1</sup> [See Appendix for further details on family genealogy]

## YOUTH IN EUREKA COUNTY: 1908-1926

My dad bought the old Canepa ranch when he got married. He bought that, and they went out there as soon as he got married. The Canepa ranch is now the Fiorenzi ranch. It originally was on Italian Creek, five or six miles east of Eureka; they call it Simpson Creek now. I was born at the ranch on August 9, 1908. All the children except Liberty, Irene, Pauline, and Joe were born there. We had the ranch from 1907 through 1920.

I remember riding horseback, going after cows and horses—going down to Fish Creek with my dad and getting wood. We'd go down there and round up the cows, and I also helped with the haying. We used to have to chop wood and carry water. We had no bathroom facilities. There was an outhouse, and we carried water quite a ways from the well up to the house to wash or to bathe. In the kitchen we had a pail of water with a dipper for anybody who wanted a drink.

*How did you make it through those hard winters?*

They used to have maybe three or four feet of snow then. We'd have a sled and sleigh and the horses, but we never did own a car or truck or anything while we lived on the ranch—no machinery of any kind, except horses and buggies and wagons and sleds. I can remember when we had a buggy with a surrey on top; it had two seats and was pulled by two horses. The outlying ranches would have dances, and we'd fix our basket lunch and go to the dance about seven or eight miles from home. They'd dance all night, and we kids would all get in under the seat and fall asleep, and then we'd come home early in the morning.

We'd go up to the DePaoli's ranch in the buggy—that was only about three or four

miles—and the men would play cards and the women would visit. Then we kids would play. We'd drive home late at night in the buggy. Sometimes I would stay over at that friend's house, or there was another friend over the Newark Summit who I would stay with.

I can remember at least one friend that lived about four miles from us. We'd walk to school together.

One time we decided we were going to play a trick. There was an old ice cellar where they used to put up ice for sale in town in the summer. They used to cut the ice in the wintertime and pack it, and then in the summer they'd bring it to Eureka. One day she and I were walking to school, and we stopped by the ice cellar and decided we were going to trade clothes. She was going to put my clothes on; I was going to wear hers. We thought that they were going to think we were a different person just because we had each other's clothes on, you know. [laughter] It was so funny.

Then I can remember the Indians out there—really good friends of ours. They was Peggy and Judy and Billy. They were just part of our family. They just had an Indian camp. They had no children; they were older Indians. Billy would work for our neighbor, and Judy was a real good friend of ours. She used to come down to the ranch all the time. In fact, when we moved to town after I got married and I had my oldest daughter, she came to the house to see me and she said, "Oh, Losche, Losche, you catch a papoose." I can remember other Indians from Duckwater who used to come to Eureka. The Indians used to come there on the Fourth of July. Then they'd have a fandango and they'd beat on the buckets and tubs and they'd sing, really have a good time.

There were Indians in Eureka that had kids that I went to school with: Rosie and

Louie George. They used to come out to the ranch with their family. Mama just worked like fury when they came over there: she would feed them all.

*It sounds like you had good relations with them.*

My dad knew no stranger, and his two sons, the same thing: Indians, Mexicans, Bascos, whatever—they were all friends of my dad. A Mexican friend of Dad's was Joe Rodriguez. He lived at our house, practically.

When the First World War broke out, we kids cleaned all the yard and set tables out there and Mom made ravioli. We had a big ravioli dinner for six or seven of the guys that went to the service. One of them was our neighbor, who was a very good friend of ours. He was my sister's godfather, and he used to always bring us Nabisco cookies and fruit. He bought me a doll for one Christmas. If he bought my sister anything, he'd often buy me something. I still have the doll that he bought me. He was there at this picnic—this farewell party that they had for them when they went to the service. Not a one of them was killed in the war.

*I know that when you were a little girl you didn't have much. A doll must have meant a lot.*

That's why at Christmastime if we had a toy, like a doll or something, well, we wouldn't keep that doll out and play with it. We'd put it away until next Christmas. That's why I still have mine. It's not in very good shape, but.... My dad bought my brother a little cart thing—a toy thing with a donkey. It used to buck, and every year we'd bring that out and wind it up. We'd play with it for a little while, and then we'd put it away until next Christmas. We always had oranges at

Christmastime, and I can't remember too many bananas. We grew apples, pears, plums, cherries. We didn't have a lot, but we had plenty to eat and we were happy.

*Did you raise most of your food? What would you typically eat?*

Papa used to make sausage. In the morning we would have bread and coffee and sausage, and maybe cheese. He would make cheese also. Then at noon we always had a hot meal. Mama was really a hard worker. She used to work, cook, take care of kids and the house, and baked all of her own bread. Then she went out and helped in the field. She led the horse to weed the garden and helped with the [hay] derrick. They also used the horse to bale the hay. They had an old baler. Mama wasn't a very strong person. She had varicose veins and her legs were really a mess.

*Were there a lot of other Italian families that were farmers or ranchers?*

Italian Creek was all Italians. There were four ranches there. The people on the lower end of the creek weren't very friendly and we weren't very friendly with them. If there were rocks in the road, we kids would go up there on the hill and clean all the rocks off the road, and we'd no sooner get home than their kids would go up there and throw the rocks back in the road. They had a lot of feuding because the irrigation water came from the upper ranch, and there were a lot of times that the water was turned off. Everybody had to use the same irrigation water, and you had just certain days that you could use the water. Otherwise we got along pretty well. Just four of us. There were the DePaolis who were up at the upper end of Italian Creek, and then Venturinos. Then

us; we were there until 1920, and then the Edra family was below us.

*Were there other Italian people in town?*

Yes. We would go and stay with my dad's first cousins, the Rogantinis. There were always people down in the Newark Valley. Most of them were Italian.

*The way you talk about the ranch as a child, they seem like happy times.*

Oh, yes. I was only 12 years old when I lived there, but they were all good times. I went to school out there for seven years in a little old white one-room schoolhouse.

*How many kids were in it?*

Oh, probably 8 or 10. [laughter] It had just the one room, and they had about eight grades. Maybe there weren't pupils in each grade. It was close enough for me to walk to school. I can remember that at recess time we'd go across the field to an old washtub and go down on the ice. When I was on horseback...I was in the height of my glory! We didn't have any toys, so we played with the sheep; we had an old billy goat, and we used to hook him up to this washtub and have him pull it. One time we wrecked the hay and got in trouble.

*Were you one of the older kids?*

No, there were older children than I. The family above us had a boy and his sister who were older than I. The youngest sister was just about my age.

*It must have been a hard life out there on the ranch.*

Yes. In the summertime they'd raise vegetables. in the spring they'd plant everything. When the vegetables grew, Mama would come to town with lettuce, carrots, beets—no tomatoes—all different kinds of vegetables. She would take them to town to sell. She also sold milk in town. In fact, I used to take milk to town on horseback. I was supposed to come back just as soon as I'd peddled my milk, but I used to try to spend the day in town if I could.

*What did you like to do in town? [laughter]*

Oh, I used to go to these friends' house. I would just spend the day with them. In the fall, when the potatoes were ready, Papa would take them to one family. He used to take about 20 sacks of potatoes up to the Ruby Hill. The Kitchen family lived up there. I'd go with him most of the time. I can still remember each one of those kids of the Kitchen's would come out with a plate and a knife, and each one would take their own potato and would all cook their own potato. Whereas, we never did have to cook for ourselves. Mama always did all of that.

*Did you have extra chores on the ranch?*

Oh, yes. We had to feed the cows, the horses, the pigs and the chickens. We had to gather the eggs, and in the summertime pitch hay onto the wagon. Sometimes I used to have to ride horseback after the cows or the horses. My sister told me once, "Oh, you never did have to stay in the house anyway."

And I said, "Listen little girl, I took the place of a man."

*They didn't hire anybody, so you were really kind of the oldest boy?*

Yes, I really was. I took the boy's place. I loved it. It didn't bother me at all. At first, when I started riding, Papa would go with me and kind of get me acquainted with the country. In the end, I used to go by myself. I'd be gone a lot of times from early morning till late at night looking for those horses. I can remember one time I spent a whole week looking for these saddle horses.... I finally found them miles away at another ranch. Those people were not Italian where I found the horses. They were German people—the Hildebrandts. Everybody was so friendly. I can remember I went there, and they had the most beautiful garden with strawberries, and they gave me some strawberry shortcake. I can still remember that strawberry shortcake Mrs. Hildebrandt made: it was beautiful.

Another time I went to town [Eureka]. I was supposed to stay in town to go to school, I think. I was staying with this family, the Aimones. I don't know how many days I had been in town, but one day I got the bright idea that I was going to walk home, and I took those kids with me. That was the last I stayed in town. I went home after that. I got in trouble there!

*You sound like an independent little girl....*

Well, more or less. They depended on me also, but still I had to do for myself.

*Do you remember any festivals that the Italian community had?*

I can remember we always came to town on Memorial Day. We helped Mama pick the flowers in the hills and then bouquet them and bring them in for the graves. The Fourth of July was another occasion. We always came to town on the Fourth of July, and they used to have a parade. They had a wagon with this



girl—the Goddess of Liberty, they called her. They had the other wagons, and the girls and boys were all in red, white and blue. They represented the 13 colonies and the 48 states. It was nice.

*Did you come in for church on Sundays?*

No. There was rarely a priest in town. When I was baptized, there was a priest there, but there was no priest there steady. After we came to town we went to catechism. The sisters were there. I didn't go to catechism, because I was older, but the other kids did. We had our first communion and our confirmation.

*Were there Grange halls or community centers?*

Yes. They had a hall at this one ranch at a place where they sheared the sheep. And then they'd have Italians that would play the accordion, and that was our entertainment. I can't remember ever going to a movie. I don't know if they even had movies at that time or not.

*You started working early?*

I had a lot of people who were really good to me; I'll never forget them. After I got through doing all the washing, I did all the dirty dishes, and washed walls for one dollar a day. That dollar went to the clothes on my brothers' and sisters' backs. After I started school, I can remember going home and not liking what was on the table, so I'd go down to the store and buy me a candy bar. If I didn't have the money to buy it, my friend would give me one.

\* \* \* \* \*

We moved in to Eureka in 1920, when I was 12.

*Was that a big change, from living on the ranch to living in town?*

Well, yes, quite a change. But still, Papa had a cow that he milked, and we had to peddle the milk. We also had to pump water for the garden, and I still rode horseback until I got married. There were more people to associate with and more kids to have fun with, also. At the ranch, it was just our own immediate family most of the time, except when we would go to the dances at another ranch or go visit the neighbors. Papa bought a truck when we moved to town so that he could haul wood with the kids' help. Yes, a 1928 Chevy.

*What did he do before he bought the truck?*

He was crippled; he didn't do anything. He couldn't work at all. Mama took in washing and ironing.

*Did you kids still do jobs?*

Oh, yes. That's when I was going around and washing clothes and cleaning house and all that. They sold milk, and Mama took in washing and ironing, and...oh, gosh, what a life! There were two grocery stores in Eureka at the time, and we dealt with one person. I can always remember my parents saying, "Well, we can't pay Fred Eather."

"We have to pay Fred Eather."

I used to think, "Why don't they pay him when they get the stuff?"

My mother never had a toilet in her house. Papa bought another house and had it moved in up there where the car wash is now on the upper end of town. They used to rent the house. My sister stayed there for a long time, and she paid some rent. Ciriaco wired it all and put in plumbing. But Mama had a couple or three kids that were really young,

so we helped my one brother, gave him a job so that he could finish high school. Papa died in 1937, and the state used to pay \$75 a month—I think it was \$75 at the time—for the two younger ones. Widows would get money. We all babysat and my sisters went out house cleaning, too. There was just no money, and I shouldn't ask why.

*Were there a lot of people in that situation?*

Oh, yes. Of course, we had a big family, and I think maybe we had it a little bit harder than other people, but we got along. Papa lost everything when the banks closed in 1929. We always had plenty to eat and a place to sleep. We never had any bathroom facilities or anything.

*When you were going with Mr. Herrera, you were working for Louisa and Manuel Uriarte at the Star Hotel?*

Their hotel was at the south end of town, that brick building where Mrs. Rowley has a service station now.

*When did you start to work for them?*

In 1924. But I worked for other people. You see, I worked for Judge Edgar Eather. Judge Eather's wife was my cousin. I worked for Judge Eather after I graduated from high school until I went to work for Mrs. Uriarte. I graduated in June of 1925, and then I worked up there...I don't know, seven or eight months probably. I lived with them. I didn't do the cooking, but I cleaned, washed, ironed, took care of kids. She did all the cooking. The reason I went up there was because she had four little girls and her sister died. The Fourth of July of 1925, the sister died and left three kids. Rose Morrison, works in the Eureka

library, was one of the children that was left behind without a mother.

\* \* \* \* \*

*What was school like in town?*

It was difficult because we came from a small school, but I had a very good teacher, and she helped me. I got through the eighth grade very well. The school was a combination elementary and high school, and the high school was upstairs.

*Where was the school located? Is it still there?*

No, the school is not there; it was condemned. It was a big brick building, and it was next to the Catholic church.... I went and I started high school in that old school building, and went to high school there for three-and-a-half years. The last part of the third year they condemned the school, so they moved everyone into private homes until the new school was ready. They had the dedication of the new high school on May 16, 1924. I went there the remainder of 1924...I graduated in 1925, and our class was the first class to graduate after going to that school for a whole year.

*How many were in your class?*

There were eight people in my class: three boys and five girls. One of the boys was my uncle. He was two years older than I. Two of the other classmates, a boy and a girl, married in later years. Three of my classmates are gone. After high school I had planned on going to the normal school [teacher training school of the University of Nevada] back in Reno, but I did not continue school. I was very sad, because I really liked school. I went



to school to be a teacher. Then I went to work, and I worked for Judge Eather for about four or five months. Then I went to work for Louisa Uriarte at that Star Hotel.

*Were you athletic in high school?*

I loved basketball. When we were in the old schoolhouse, we used to have to go downtown to play basketball. After they built the new school, they had a gymnasium, and we played basketball there. If we had a play or anything else like that in the old schoolhouse, we would have it in the theater downtown. We had graduation and everything in the new school, after it was built. I have a picture of when I graduated.

\* \* \* \* \*

We knew everybody in Eureka. J. B. Biale had the grocery and hardware store at the north end of town. The Basques all traded with Biale because he had most everything. The Biale store is still there. Then there was Fred Eather, who had the other grocery store. O. R. Mau had a clothing store, and the Morse Brothers also had a clothing store. Mrs. Schneider had the drugstore. There was also the Farmers and Merchants National Bank. Later Evelyn Rattazzi started selling clothes down below the bank. That was in the 1920s too. She not only had a store, she had the beauty salon. There was the post office. As far back as I can remember, Tracey Hoegh was the postmaster.

J. B. Rebeleati owned the garage, and he had a blacksmith shop. His mother and stepfather had a bar and a little rooming house downtown. The blacksmith shop was very busy, because there were so many horses. There was nothing but horses at that time, and they shod all the horses and he made

anything of iron. He shod the horses, and he fixed wagons.

*Had people started buying cars yet in the 1920s?*

Yes. In fact, our neighbor, A. C. Florio, had a Model T Ford. It was one of the first ones. Florio and DePaoli had cars—about 1918 they bought a Model T Ford.

Paco's brother used to come out to the ranch in a car; I don't know whose car it was. He never owned one by himself, I don't think. He used to come out there and buy our pet lambs and take them to the restaurant. We had a most beautiful lamb we called Spaghetti. Uncle Ed Herrera came and Papa sold him the lamb. It just broke our hearts.

*So, things were pretty good in the 1920s?*

Everything was fine until the Depression came along in 1929. I can remember my father out in front of the house. He had a long bench, and he used to sit there most of the time, especially in the afternoon. There was a friend of his in town. I don't know if he was the constable at that time or not, but he was Mike Donnelly. He came up and he told Papa, "You got any money in the bank, you better take it out. That Henderson Bank is going to go under." Papa didn't listen, and he lost it. He didn't have an awful lot of money, but what little he had he lost in the Henderson Bank.



---

## CIRIACO HERRERA: FAMILY AND YOUTH

### PARENTS

Ciriaco Herrera [CH]: My father's name was Melchoir Herrera, and my mother was Francesca Palomera. My mother was a housewife; she wasn't working outside at all. There were 11 children. Eight survived infancy, and I am the only survivor.

My father was a fisherman, and he had dairy cattle in Santander. He also worked on the railroad, and he was a foreman on the railroad in Spain. I used to hear my father say that he had a crew working for him on the railroad, and they couldn't carry a steel rail. My father was heavy—heavier than I am. He went over and grabbed the rail by himself and carried it right there where they had to put it. I heard that a lot of times. When I was home in Spain, my mother had rheumatism awful bad. She had big bumps on the backs of the legs and she couldn't walk, and she was suffering like heck. She used to send me to buy wine for her. I was awful young at that time. Maybe I was eight and nine years old, and I had to go and get wine for her. And

finally the old man raised hell because there was that trouble in the house. I saw so much of it, seeing my mother there. You know—a kid, and seeing your mother stupid drunk and falling down and all that other stuff. I made up my mind that I never was going to drink, and that's why I never did drink.

For smoking, the teacher gave me a hell of a beating. We was in the school, and three of us went from the school. The school was down on the bottom and the church was up on the top. There was an old arch where we used to play at the school. We got out at recess and went over and went to the south side of the church. They used to have rock pillars for beauty in the church, and we were behind there smoking, three of us. Where we got it, I don't know, but it was tobacco. The teacher took us to school right there. He had been a sheriff in South America. He came from Cuba. He had a piece of wood about two inches around, hard wood, and he used to take it and hit us with that hard wood in the top of the fingernails. He beat the hell out of us right there in the school. So that was my last smoking; I quit smoking.

And another thing is the doctor said my father was so bad, he told him, "You better quit the smoking. You don't have very long to live."

And my father told him, "If I have to quit the smoking, I might just as well die." And he died. Then he quit.

Rose Herrera [RH]: He died in 1926, just a few days after we got married, and we didn't know until probably the year afterwards that he was even dead.

### **BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

CH: My brother Eduardo came to Nevada when I was an awful young kid. He had been here for quite a while. In Spain they used to go out in the ocean and swim. He swam eight miles from one point to another in the ocean. He was a heck of a swimmer. He was a strong man—short, very strong, heavy-set like I am.

CH: Eduardo came, and then he worked for a fellow by the name of A. C. Florio. He worked for him in the sheep camp. For how long I couldn't tell you, because I came and I didn't ask any questions, you know. After he worked he bought the Eureka Hotel, and then he bought the Colonnade, and then he bought a mercantile store that belonged to Morse. Two Jews had the place. He bought that one from them.

RH: Ed worked for A. C. Florio with his sheep before he ever got his hotel. I don't know how many years he worked for Florio. He was herding sheep up in Prospect, by the Diamond mine up the canyon, and the woman he eventually married was teaching school up there. Her name was Kate Morse and she used to go up there on horseback to teach school, and she used to stop and visit with him, and

that's how they got acquainted. Then, finally, she got a divorce and then they got married. I think the reason Ed was successful was because he worked and he saved his money, and then he went and bought this hotel. Then he bought another hotel, and then years later in Prohibition time, those people all made a lot of money.

CH: Eduardo bought the place where Dotson's is now. He and Dr. Brennan had that. He used to have an ice cream parlor there, and that was Ed's building. Then he sold the Eureka Hotel, and he still had the Colonnade. He and Sallaberry were in partnership for a while, but in 1946, I think, or 1947, he sold his share of the Colonnade to Sallaberry. All he had left was the Colonnade bar down where Dotson's is. When he died, the kids inherited that from Ed's estate.

At the last, Eduardo was drinking, but I saw him fall down only once all the time when I was around with him. Oh, he was terrific for his friends. My brothers Ed and Tony Herrera were the people that originally got me to Nevada.

My father didn't want to keep me in Spain, because in two more years or so I had to go to the army. There used to be so many that had to go every year to Africa to protect Africa country. And boy, there was hell. Twenty percent of the people that went, they never came back. And my dad said, "I'm not going to have kids for them to cut, to kill."

RH: Tony Herrera married Elvira Belaustegui, and they had four children. Two passed away as infants, and the other two survived—a daughter and a son—John and Frances.

Next in line to Tony were Valentina and Evalinda. Evalinda was married to Palomera, and she had four children. Out of the four

she has one left; they all passed away when they were young.

Valentina married Fernando Segura, but she had a daughter in Spain before she came here by another marriage. She left the daughter, Emilia, over there and came over here with Ciriaco. They had five children: the oldest, Ed, was killed. His father killed him accidentally. Then there were Martin, Tony, Domingo and Carmen.

Martin was married and had two children, Martin and Virginia, by one woman, Freida Bay, and divorced and remarried and had another daughter, Maria. Tony was married and had five children—Toni, Marie, Danette, Patrick and Tina. Domingo was married and had three children—Raymond, Anita and Fernando.

Ciriaco came from Lencres in northern Spain. He came here in November of 1920, and his sister, Valentina, came with him. They came to Ed Herrera's place, the Eureka Hotel. Ed married Kate Morse in 1921, I think. She had a daughter when he married her—Edna. Later in 1921 or 1922 they had a son, Melchoir.

Incarnación was Paco's older sister, but I can't tell what her married name is or how many children she had. I do know that we met three of her children, but I don't know if she had more than that or not when we were in Spain.

There was Serafina. I don't know for sure how many children she had. And then there was Aurora. She was married to Ramon Salas, and they had three boys. Carmen

married and had one child, Alex.

CH: The year after my sister Valentina was here she got married to Fernando Segura, and then they went to Pinto Creek. His partner, Marcos Legarra, went broke. By that time his brother, Martin Segura, who was a partner

with my brother Tony, asked him to go in with them, and they bought the Antelope ranch.

#### YOUTH IN EUREKA: 1920-1926

RH: Ciriaco came to Nevada in 1920 at the age of 16. He first went to school out to Robert's Creek, but it didn't last very long—probably two months. Then Ciriaco came to Eureka and went to work at the Eureka Hotel for his brother, making rooms and making beds. Then he started making whiskey during Prohibition time, and you weren't supposed to be making whiskey. Being an alien made it worse, because he could have been sent back to Spain.

Then from there he decided to go to the mines, and he went to Mill City and then down to Tonopah. He worked in the Victory mine, but only for about seven days. In 1922 or 1923 he went off to Antelope and worked for his brother-in-law.

CH: In the Victory mine, I didn't touch the shovel, it was so hot. I just was going there to sit down and never touch the shovel. So, after seven days I quit.

RH: That's the only time he worked in the mines until after we got married.

CH: After we got married, I trammed up at Ruby Hill. You push it yourself. [Shaft mines commonly employed small ore cars (trams) on rails to remove the ore from the shaft.—Ed.] There were holes in the ground between the tracks from when you put one foot and then put another and push it uphill. It was heavy, but I had to work. Car upon car, a ton load. I was pretty strong.

*Is that how you trained to be a boxer, pushing that ore?*

CH: No. A lot of it came natural. We used to box around in Eureka all the time. We used to go and box in the dance hall, right there in front of the Eureka Hotel, next to the Nevada Club. I boxed with a lot of kids: Vinnie, Merialdo, and Bill and Owen Rice. I played basketball with them, too, in Eureka, before we got married.

I bought a bar from a fellow by the name of Montes. It was right alongside the Sundown Lodge, alongside the Eureka Garage. We had gambling. Yes, poker and soft drinks and whiskey and whatever you could make a living on. Selling liquor was illegal, and I was afraid I was going to get caught, but I sold it. My brother wasn't there to stop me, because he was in Spain on a visit. But I didn't run the bar very long. The authorities stopped me after a guy came and held up the game.

Jack Delaney came into my bar from Angelo Ghiringelli's bar. He came through the front door, and before the gambling he used to come to the bar and pawn his watch so he could gamble. I had trouble with him before, because he'd get drunk and just used to raise hell; he was the wild old man. So I told my dealer when he came here not to hock his watch; let him go out someplace else and do it. I went to supper, and when I came back, he was playing. The house was losing, so I sat down and played with him. When I was playing, finally, he lost all the money that he put up for the watch. Then he left.

After Delaney left, I didn't think he would do anything. I was glad that he left. But he came back through the front door, and I was gambling. My back was turned to the entrance. I looked back and I saw him when he came, and I saw him back up toward the door. I never had any idea that he was going to lock the door. So, he locked the door and walked to the bar and pulled the .48 pistol and put his hand up with the .48 facing the game.

"A holdup. This is a holdup, he said. "Get in there and take all the money; I'm going to take all the money that is in there."

There were two Chinamens—Big Ock and Cracker. And one Chinaman said, "T-t-take it all. T-take it all." He couldn't even talk. He was scared to death. He didn't have anything like that happen before.

So he started getting the money, and he told me three times to get our hands up. You had to get up to put your hands up. I didn't put my hands up, and he told me the third time. After the third time I put my hand in my pocket. I thought I had a .32 automatic in my pocket. But I didn't have it. (I usually had a gun.) So I had to throw my hands up or get killed, because he was crazy enough to shoot.

Delaney gathered all the money and took the money and went out through the back door. When he went out through the back door, I went to the bar to see if the gun was there. Sure, it was right there in the drawer where I had it. So I took the gun and tried to follow. By that time, he was already close to the Sentinel office. It was an awful dark night, and I didn't see him at all. So I went from there into the street that comes down from Ruby Hill, and I couldn't see him anyplace. It was pretty dark, and I was pretty nervous. Pretty soon, when I went walking down to the Main street, two shots went right over my head. Before I got to the corner, I started to run. He shot again, but it was too dark. He couldn't see. He knew it was somebody, and he just picked me. He was drunk anyway.

I went to the corner and I watched. Delaney shot another shot, but when he shot the other shot I could see just about where he was. So I took and shot two shots at him, but he was behind the wall, and I couldn't hit him anyway. I picked the two empty cartridges up, put them in my pocket and went back to the bar, and I didn't see him any more after that.

Afterwards they arrest me, and I went to court. I had the doctor with me, Dr. Brennan. We had a trial. They soaked me \$500 and let Delaney go free with the money. There was \$700 that he took under the table. I couldn't do anything about it. They let me free, but they closed the bar.

RH: There were these cliques in Eureka. Dr. Brennan and his brother were one clique, and Judge Eather and that other bunch were another clique, and Angelo Ghiringelli was with Judge Eather and that bunch. They were all fighting each other, and Dr. Brennan was influential enough to get Ciriaco off in court. Ed Herrera, Ciriaco's brother, expected something like this to happen, so he told Dr. Brennan to watch out for him. Ed wanted to take Ciriaco back to Spain when he went.

*Why didn't you want to go to Spain?*

CH: I was going with Rose!

*So you're not sorry you didn't go to Spain with your brother?*

CH: I should say not! [laughter] I got a good wife. She helped a lot. I fell in love with her and that was it. Good woman—you don't find very many.





---

## ROSE AND CIRIACO HERRERA MARRY AND START A FAMILY: 1926-1932

Rose Herrera [RH]: Paco [Ciriaco Herrera] and I started going together, and we were married about a year later on August 28 of 1926. When we got married I was working for Louisa, and Ciriaco went to work for the Holly mine; then the Holly mine closed.

We were married at the Richmond House, owned by Louisa Uriarte. It was just a brick house; it's still there in Eureka. The front part was a bar, and then there was a dining room, a kitchen and a back bedroom. Then they added on a couple of frame places on the outside; they rented them to the miners. At the time when I first got married, there were about 30 miners—not all staying there, but they all ate there. I fixed their lunches and their breakfasts and cooked their dinner when they came home. From there we moved downtown to the Star Hotel with the Uriartes. I worked for them until March of 1927, and then I left because I was pregnant.

We went out to the ranch at Antelope, and we were out there for a while. Then we came back to town, and our daughter, Elaine, was born in Eureka at my mother's home. Then

we went back to work at Antelope for not too awful long in 1927. We came back in the fall of 1927, and I went back to work for the Uriartes at the Star again.

*What was life in that hotel like?*

RH: Well, it had rooms upstairs, and Mrs. Uriarte served meals. Most of the time she would have miners there. She would cook breakfast, and then they would take their lunches. But we served big dinners.

*How did you get to know her? Why did you go to work there?*

RH: Well, the Uriartes came to Eureka in 1925 from Park City, Utah. They rented that place right above where my mom and dad lived. And my dad was...like I said, there were no strangers to him. He just made friends.

Mrs. Uriarte already had two children in Spain, but she was expecting her first child from this husband, and my mother was the midwife. She had their second baby, and my

mother was the midwife for that baby, too. And for the third one, too. That's how we met in the beginning.

*How old were you when you first went to work for her?*

RH: It was in 1925, when I was 17.

*And you worked there kind of off and on, right?*

RH: Yes.

*Did you enjoy those years, even though there was a lot of hard work?*

RH: Oh, yes. I mean I've enjoyed life... work was part of my life. There were always these different people, and a lot of times... three or four Basques would start playing mus [a Basque card game similar to poker], and they'd be there all night. There was always action in the bar and everything. There was never a dull moment. Then there was work. You had to keep up your end of it. We used to cook enormous amounts of food at dinnertime. But Mrs. Uriarte worked hard, she and I both. First one would have a baby, and then the other'd have a baby, and then the other one would have a baby, and then the other one would have a baby.

*How many children did Manuel and Louisa have?*

RH: She had Angelo and Danny, and then she lost a little girl, and then Josephine and Louie and Violet. She had six.

*You remained good friends, then, throughout the years?*

RH: Oh, yes. When we were in Elko the other day, we saw Angelo and his family; we saw Danny and his wife; we saw Louie and his family; we saw Violet and her family. Josephine wasn't there; she was in Salt Lake City. I enjoyed them so much. It's just like part of my family. Their mother was a second mother to me, and they'll say that I was a second mother to them.

*Do you have any other memories about the Star Hotel?*

RH: About the fifth of August in 1926 there was a big flood in Eureka. A woman went to the Diamond mine to tell her husband and her son that the flood was coming, and for them to get out of the mine. She didn't wait for them; she went on home, and the flood caught her, drowned her, and washed her into a culvert. Then downtown there was a man who the flood took; it took cars and everything. All the people on Main Street had got out of their homes and went up on the top of the hill. Water came down through Louisa's place and came right through one side and out through the other. There was a lot of damage. It filled the basement full of dirt and stuff.

*Were you still working for the Star Hotel in 1927?*

RH: In April 1928, after I had my second child, two girls came from France and I lost my job. The Uriartes hired them, because they owed the uncle money. It was a favor.

There were probably four or five Basque hotels in Eureka at that time. There was the Amistad and there was the Star Hotel and the Nevada Hotel, and a bar. All the Basque hotels used to have a dance every weekend. They had their dances, and there was quite a bit of

competition and feeling between the people that ran the places. They had a dining room where they served meals. At the dances all they did was sell drinks, and that's where they made all their money. There was a lot of bad feelings between them, because the people were all over in one place while another guy wanted them at his place. It was kind of bad there.

All the Bascos used to congregate in Eureka when they used to take the sheep from the north to the south. The sheepherders would all camp close to town. They would come to town and enjoy themselves. A lot of them would stay up all night playing mus. After they played mus for three or four hours, they'd have garlic soup. I can remember, I used to clean their rooms and go in the room and open all the windows and doors and try to make a bed, and then run outside and get a little fresh air and come back...because that garlic soup second hand was pretty bad.

The Bascos have a thing that when they work, they work, and when they play, they play. They have a ball when they come to town. A lot of them would spend all the money that they made over the whole year and go back broke. Yes, and especially one fellow I knew would come to town and he'd get money and throw it up in the air and let the kids pick it up.

*Did they ever cause any trouble?*

RH: Oh, yes. One time a guy by the name of Pasqual got into a fight with another—Montes, I think it was; Pasqual stabbed him twice. This happened at the Amistad. They both lived, but they were both bad men. That Pasqual was scary, you know. He would get drunk and just...

*Did you go to the dances, or were you just working there?*

RH: I used to go to the dances. I waited on tables at the Amistad before I married, and if my dad let me go to the dance, I would go. Of course, that was before I got married, and then after I got married I would be at the Star, because I was working there.

*Did you live there too for a time?*

RH: Yes. We had a room right there. We lived upstairs. Our oldest son was born up there.

*How did your life change when you got married?*

Well, one thing that I first missed was going from a lot of people to just the two of us. I didn't go out and work for other people except when we went on ranches and worked. I did the cooking and all of my own housework, whereas, before I got married, Mama did all of that when I went working for other people. At home I didn't do anything; I didn't like to cook and bake. She always did that.

We left the Star Hotel after Elaine was born, and we went to Antelope. We were working on the ranch, but I didn't get along very well with my sister-in-law, so I didn't want to stay. So we came back to town, went back to work for the Uriartes again. I worked there until my son, Ted, was born in 1928.

In 1928 we went to Birch Creek. That was another ranch over by Austin. We went there in about September of 1928; we stayed until June of 1929. Then I came to town to help my mother, because she was expecting a baby. I was also pregnant again. I stayed there with my dad and mother, and Bobby was born there.

Our daughter, Elaine, was born in 1927. She married John Jaureguito in 1946, and

she had a daughter and three sons by him: Jacquie, Tim, John and Joel. Jacqueline is married to Mike Compston, and they have two lovely daughters—Yvette and Toynette. They lost a little boy in 1970, I think it was.

Our son Theodore was born in 1928; he married Jean Thompson, and they had two boys, Tom and Ted. He was killed in a mine accident in 1956, leaving two little boys, five and four.

Robert was born in 1929. He was married to Marian Stinnett in 1953, but they were divorced. They did adopt a boy in 1961—R. C., who Robert raised. R. C. just married Annette Young of Reno. Robert remarried in 1973 to Clarisse Fitzgerald; they haven't had any children of their own.

Maynard was born in 1931, and he was never married...so he had no children. Carlo was born in 1932, and he married Marcia Albers. They had four children: Michael, Carla, Tony and Marcelle. Mike is married to Kim Morrison, and they have no children.

---

## EMPLOYMENT AND LIFE IN EUREKA: 1920S-1930S

Rose Herrera [RH]: In September of 1929, when Bobby was born, Ciriaco went to work for A. C. Florio in Duckwater, and I stayed with my mother and dad. Then, in the spring of 1930, we went to Five Mile, the roadhouse near Tonopah. John Nay was the owner. He was a prominent sheepman in Nye County.

The Basques used to take the sheep from the north to the south. Before they went back to the north they decided they were going to shear sheep there at our place. Ciriaco's brother-in-law and brother sheared their sheep there. Then a friend was going to shear his sheep, and it started to rain. So I was feeding all these Mexicans—I don't know how many of them—and the roof leaked and all that.

I had three little kids. The oldest one was four. Ciriaco was an alien, and it was Prohibition time, and I just couldn't see a foreigner selling whiskey and getting in trouble. So we had to watch out for "Prohis" [the federal agents enforcing Prohibition]. I decided it wasn't worth it, so we left there and

came back to Eureka. Ciriaco and I finally settled down in about 1931. We were in Eureka until we came to Reno in 1960.

After Carlo was born, Ciriaco went to work in construction for the CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps]. He had a little old truck, and he would rent the truck out. That's the way we lived until 1934. Ciriaco worked for Florio during the summer, and then that fall he went to work for Seguras at Antelope again. They went down south with the sheep, and he was gone for three months.

We were snowed in for three weeks in February of 1932. Then Ciriaco came, and later on I went out with him. The kids and I went over to Horse Camp...I don't know how many miles from Ely. The whole family was out there. We had two big tents: one for cooking and one for sleeping. It was a beautiful spot. I remember they enjoyed that. We stayed there all summer until the fall. Then in the fall we came back and went out to the Antelope ranch. About then we bought that little old shack in Eureka, our first house. It was up on the south end of

town. No bathroom facilities; nothing but an outhouse. So Ciriaco fixed it up a little bit.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ciriaco Herrera [CH]: Eureka is a small place. The only place you could use a car was for going to and from the ranch. I remember a time when I was going to the ranch, and I was looking around the place to see my sister. There was a big log out on the road, and I didn't see it. The Model T hit the log with the front wheel, and over I went...tipped it right over.

You had to crank the early cars. You couldn't start them with a starter like afterwards. Once I had seven guys with me going up to the mine in the Model T. It was a steep hill. I don't think I was having trouble, but just about the time I was at the top, the doggone Model T started to go backwards. So I kicked it in reverse and went backwards all the way down the hill.

*When did you first start working with engines and cars and mechanical things?*

Right away. I started with watches first. I would just take them apart and try to fix them, but I never made a success. It was too small for someone without any experience.

While at Roberts Creek with the Sara family, I'd rig up a trailer like a little wagon for the burros-the ones that I was doing the chores with. Margarita first, she was the oldest one, and Isadore was the second one, and then Peter, and we used to go for a ride on that wagon that I made. I made it myself.

I was only 16 when I came to the United States, but I used to make things in Spain. A lot of times when there wasn't any school, I used to go with the cattle on the coast. I had a lot of time, and I used to find lumber

and stuff in the ocean, and I used to make different things of that. And we would sell the salvaged lumber. It just came natural to me. So in Eureka, then, I just bought a bunch of Model T Ford pieces, and I made a car out of them. That was in 1922 and 1923.

There were some people in Eureka who had Model T Fords, and they always sold the old ones, or they just discarded them because there were not many mechanics at that time. So I just got ahold of them pretty cheap and fixed them myself. We used the Model T to go to the mine and one place and another with it. I didn't use it for anything else, because around Eureka you don't need it.

The Model T had a bunch of disks in the clutch, and then you had pedals; and you'd step on the pedal, and that tied the plates together, and then it would go. But otherwise it was slipping there. With the later Model A Ford you had a starter and everything else. That was a pretty new thing; you don't have to crank it. With Model Ts a lot of people got hurt. If it wasn't working right, then things used to kick so doggone bad that you turn it over, it kicks back, and it throws you back four or five feet.

*In the 1930s did more people have cars?*

RH: Yes.

*Did having a car change people's lives?*

CH: They began to spread out and go back and forth. They had to use it for their business, just like the sheepmen.

RH: And then at that time they started with truck transportation and buses to travel. Well, the narrow gauge railroad was something to behold, I tell you.

CH: It was small.

RH: That was it.

CH: But you could get off and walk faster than the train could travel. A lot of times, going over the summit, they had to get off and chase the cows off the track.

*Could it get in through that snow and ice and everything? Eureka is pretty high....*

CH: Why, sure. They got in, but a lot of places they had to shovel the drifts. And after shoveling the drifts they go some more and then run into another drift and then shovel that. Probably it would take them day and night before they could ever....

RH: It would take them weeks to get through.

CH: The Model A came in 1928. I sold the Model T, and I never did get a penny for it. A fellow by the name of Wintersteen bought it. He was a crook; he took the Model T, but he never paid for it.

RH: In 1927 we had an Oldsmobile, a beautiful thing; and before that we had a Dodge. That Oldsmobile got me in a lot of trouble. And then we had that old Buick.

*It sounds like you had a car a lot earlier, and had a lot more cars than other people.*

CH: Oh, yes. I did. Hell, I think it was seven or eight Chryslers that I had.

RH: We had a Chrysler practically every month in those days. He always found something wrong with them.

CH: If there was anything wrong with them, I got rid of them.

The trucks began to come. I had a fleet of trucks myself in the 1940s. I had three trucks. I had truck drivers hauling ore to Ely from Ruby Hill. And from down at Diamond, they used to haul rock; they'd haul it to the smelter in Ely. I was running the garage, but I had three truck drivers hauling.

*In the 1930s the train was gone....*

CH: And then all the cars came in. We bought that 1933 Chevrolet, and then after that we bought that Plymouth. That was brand-new.

RH: Yes, but by that time we were going to Ely to get parts for the cars, and groceries. Then, later on we were going to Salt Lake City to the doctor and to shop. We got out more than some people.

#### **A. C. FLORIO: SHEEP AND CATTLE DISPUTES**

*Were there problems between the sheepmen and the cattlemen in Eureka?*

RH: All the time. A. C. Florio was the most prominent person around there. He was a cattleman, a sheepman and owned ranches. Isadore Sara owned the Eureka Land and Livestock Company.

When Florio came to Eureka, he worked for the butcher there in Eureka, Phil Paroni. They used to say he used to go out and pick up cows that were half dying. Then he put them through the butcher shop.

CH: Florio killed one of the Bascos. He didn't kill him with a gun. He hit him



with his fist. They were arguing about the range.

RH: He had problems, too, with the Pastorinos out at the hay ranch. He kept pushing the sheep on Pastorino's cattle ground.

CH: Florio had sheep and cows; he always had a lot of cows in Duckwater. He had a big ranch.

RH: His cattle were all in Duckwater, but the sheep were up around Eureka. He had ranches down in Duckwater, and he had ranches in Diamond Valley.

A. C. Florio was very prominent. As a child, I can remember him. He had a daughter as old as I am. She used to have birthday parties every year, and then she would invite us. That was one thing I looked forward to every year—to come in from the ranch and go to the birthday party. But, you know, we were much poorer. They had money, and those kids were brought up with everything. When they grew older, they had their own cars. They had everything.

The Florios had lived in different places around Eureka. They lived where Martin Borgna's house is—that brick house on the way to the cemetery, on the left-hand side of the road as you go around the turn. And then Florio lived on Spring Street. His granddaughters inherited the old house on Spring Street and made it into two apartments. A. C. Florio and his first wife had two daughters, and a son who developed appendicitis and died as a 21-year-old. His first wife died, and he married a woman from Ely, and they had one daughter. Florio's eldest daughter, Josephine, and I were very, very chummy. In fact, she was just a month younger than I.

CH: A man named Carter herded sheep that came from Elko through Angelo Florio's range. I was working for Florio at that time. The trail ran south to Duckwater, but they had to be away so many miles from the property. Well, Carter let the sheep go right on inside Florio's range, and that made trouble between them.

Carter stopped me down in Eureka Flat and asked me what I thought of Florio. I said, "Florio is a pretty good man."

And he said, "Well, I'll straighten him up."

I said, "No, you ain't going to straighten him up. He will straighten you up." I thought Carter had a gun right there all the time, so I said, "You better watch what you're trying to do, because Florio has the gun right in his chest. That's a man that you don't want to fool around with." That's when he told me that he'd stick it up Florio's behind. I said, "Well, you better not try anything like that." And I told Florio what he said.

The Carters called Florio and told him they wanted to go and straighten things out immediately. Florio had a lawyer in Ely, so they came to Ely and they was discussing the problem. Both Carter brothers were there to beat the hell out of Florio, but he was too fast. He always did pack a gun, and he shot Carter in the stomach.

When they came to court, Florio got me for witness. So I went to the stand, and he asked me what Carter said, and I told them. I told them how Carter told me that he would stick the gun up Florio's behind. It saved Florio because Carter had said that.

*Was Florio a hot-headed man?*

CH: Oh, yes! I had trouble with Florio afterwards myself. He pulled a gun on me years after that. I was working for my brother-in-law and my brother. They ran the sheep,



their yearlings, on Florio's ground. Florio went ahead and got a bunch of yearlings and they had the same brand. The funny part of it was, they already separated them—him and the herder—and put them in with the sheep and lambs. After they separated them I saw all the yearlings with my brother-in-law's brand on them. So I told him, "What are you doing with those yearlings?"

He said, "Those are my yearlings."

I said, "No, they aren't. They are our yearlings. They are my brother's and my brother-in-law's yearlings."

And he said, "Well, you try to get them."

I said, "You bet your life I'll get them."

So he pulled the gun on me. He was by the corral. I had a sheep hook.... Well, he pulled me down; I took the sheep hook and I just about got him in the head. I would have killed him. And, boy, he ducked and went out, and he said, "If it wasn't for your wife I'd shoot you."

I said, "Why didn't you?"

So I went back and separated all the yearlings that belonged to my brother and brother-in-law, and he took his lambs and sheep, and we took our yearlings.

## ETHNIC GROUPS

RH: Years ago in Eureka those German men were against the Italians. They had no use for the Italians.

*So the Germans and the Italians didn't get along?*

RH: Well, the English either, you know. The English and the Italians, oh, boy! The English hated the Italians. I don't know why. They just did.

*Weren't those early mines owned by the English?*

RH: I don't know. But I do know that the English despised the Italians...the Germans, too. I remember when my dad used to tell this story about when he first came from the Old Country. I guess he must have been working at the mine for a while or something, because he said when he would take his lunch, these German guys would play all these tricks on him—they'd steal his lunch...

There was a young kid in Eureka by the name of Dick Gibson, and he used to side in with my dad. He would tell my dad what those guys were doing. I can't remember the story exactly, but I know they didn't like Italians. To this day there are English people that don't like the Italians. Oh, sure. And it's funny, too, because there are some English people in Eureka who came right directly from England. This one family had a father and mother, and they left one daughter in England, and then they brought two daughters and two sons over here; they came with four children. They were very good friends of mine. He wasn't too bad—the father—but the mother was a haughty bugger. The oldest daughter started going with this boy. His people were Italian, and, oh, man, they put the kibosh on that, let me tell you, right quick! Then she started going with an English boy and married him, and that was fine. But they didn't want her to marry this Italian fellow at all. Oh, my! English and Italians! The Basques and Italians got along all right. I think they were more.... But, the English and Italians and the Germans and Italians didn't mix.

*How about Germans and Basques? Did they have problems?*

RH: I don't know. I don't think there were that many Germans around when the Basques were there. Before, there were quite a few Germans in Eureka. That was probably

before my time, when Papa first came from the Old Country and stuff. See, he came here in 1886. He didn't get married until 1907. In those years, he experienced a lot of things. People called them dagos; they called them wops. They gave people terrible nicknames. My father had a nickname, but I'm not even going to mention it, because my sister and my brother think it's terrible. I said, "Well, I don't know who started that or how it got started, but I wish I would have asked him about it."

*How was the town divided up? Who lived where, and what did they do?*

RH: The Damele family all lived up on the hill. They were all there; that was Damele Town up by the Catholic church. Then my grandmother and my two aunts lived really close together, but the other aunt didn't. Most of those English people were up at Ruby Hill. Albert Biale's wife and family was up at Ruby Hill; the Kitchen family were up there at Ruby Hill. They were all English. It seemed like the English were all up there. Well, they did move downtown later, but at one time they were all at Ruby Hill.

*Did most of them feel as if they were better than other people?*

RH: Well, no, not really. Just this one family. They didn't want intermarriage with the Italians.

*How did the Italians feel about it? Did they feel the same way?*

RH: No, I don't think it was that strong in Eureka, because two English girls married two Italian fellows that are in Eureka. Yes, my classmates. He was Italian and she was

English, and then Albert Biale and his wife, the same thing. But this particular lady, this English lady, she was very haughty. She did think that she was better than anyone else. But the fellow she was married to was the direct opposite.

*Did the English feel the same way about the Basques, like if one of their kids knew a Basque kid?*

RH: Well, I don't know. You see, there weren't too many English around when the Basques were up there.

*Weren't there Chinese there?*

RH: Oh, yes, a lot of Chinese.

*What's the name of that restaurant there...that's Chinese? Is that the Eureka Hotel?*

RH: Yes, yes.

*Wasn't there always a Chinese family there? I remember about 20 years ago, going into a restaurant and going down some stairs in the back. Was there a railroad, or something, underneath the town, and some opium dens? Did you know about that?*

RH: That's the Eureka Hotel. Yes. I don't know what Chinese...oh, maybe Eng Soong was down there then. Sure! Soong had the restaurant down there. And then up at the Brown Hotel, Henry had that—the other Chinaman. But Soong was down at the Eureka Hotel for quite a few years. So, 20 years ago, sure; that's who it was.

*In your day, in the 1920s, were there still Chinese there?*

RH: Oh, yes! Not too many of them at the end, but in the 1920s, when Ciriaco first came from the Old Country, there were a lot of Chinese people there—men...I don't know about women.

*What did they work at?*

CH: Oh, there was gambling...smoking dope.

*Didn't they have the opium dens behind that restaurant?*

RH: Yes. And they had them down on Main Street, too.

CH: Also, in front of the schoolhouse. It was run by a man by the name of Cracker. He lived down where the schoolhouse had the yard there. This Cracker had an opium den right under the ground.

RH: Big Ock was down there, too. They had laundries. This one Chinese guy used to peddle vegetables and stuff like that. He had a stick across his shoulders with a basket on each end.... Then there was the cook at the Eureka Hotel for Uncle Ed. That's what Cracker was doing, I think...Cracker, the Chinaman.

*Where was Chinatown?*

RH: From the Sentinel building to Mrs. Sallaberry's was Chinatown.

*Do you remember any other incidents involving the Chinese?*

RH: Well, Ed Morse's wife was a young girl. She was born about 1894. She got

married when she was about 17 or 18. Would that be about 1912? She used to go load that wash at the Chinaman's. Down at Big Ock's, Ed Morse and the Chinaman used to smoke opium. She said they'd lay down on these benches and go to sleep, and she'd sit there and wait for Ed to come to. But she was just a young girl. Yes, that's what she told me one time. She said, "You just don't know...."

*Did the Chinese mix with everybody?*

RH: Oh, yes.

*I mean as far as marriage or anything like that?*

RH: Oh, no! No, no, no. There were no women up there. And the Chinese men, themselves, weren't that young. No children, and no women. I don't know if they had women—wives—somewhere, or what...or where they came from, or what. I don't know.

One Chinese man, they used to call Chinaman Louie. He had a bunch of kids from Eureka who were around him. (In fact, Old Bob McKay inherited the name—we call him Chinese Louie.) The kids took Chinaman Louie's little old Model T, and they went to get some air in the tire. They went up to Chinatown.

I had kept our son Carlo home all summer long, because he used to get into trouble all the time. Just the day before we were going to Ely to buy clothes for school, he begged me to go down to the garage, and I said, "OK, you go." Walking around without any shoes or anything, his feet were all rough. So he went down to the garage. He wasn't gone very long...and the constable comes up and he says to me, "Rose, Carlo just got hurt. You better come down here." I think Mickey Delaney was constable at the

time. He was at the courthouse, anyway. Maybe he wasn't constable, but he was also county treasurer. So, anyway, I couldn't figure it out.

They had this Chinaman's truck—all these kids. They went up to the garage to put air in the tire. Carlo met them some place there, got on the truck with them. It was a little open truck—just a seat, you know. They were just hanging on the running board. They turned around and started to go down the back street there. The tire blew out, and it threw Carlo over toward a pile of wood, and that's how he broke his leg. He was pretty young then. It must have been in the 1940s when this happened.

*Do you remember any of those old-time Chinese? Did they come gamble at your bar, or downtown?*

CH: There were two of them there—Ock and Cracker. They liked to gamble. They also had a store, where they sold scarves and Chinese things...

RH: ...right up there in Chinatown. I know Papa got me a little Chinese wooden box up there. They had scarves with dragons on them and stuff.

*What were relations like between the Chinese and others in town?*

RH: The Chinese were older people. They didn't get in any trouble.

*Were there Irish there, too, in Eureka?*

CH: Yes, there was Irish. Jack Delaney was Irish...

RH: ...Mike Donnelly. Yes, there was Mike Donnelly and his family. Mike and Jack Donnelly, two brothers. Then there was Mrs. Delaney, and then Ed Delaney and his sister. They came in from a ranch. They were in town. In fact, Ed Delaney was the county treasurer for years. He was a constable first, and then he was the county treasurer for years. Their cousins lived there in Eureka, too. Jack O'Connor and Dick O'Connor lived right there in Eureka. They came from Ireland. Dick worked for Rebeleati in the garage. There were Irish people around up there. I'm sure there were more. Mrs. Delaney was a sweet person. In fact, her niece is in Eureka right today. She married Albert Biale's son.

CH: Jack Delaney went up to the whorehouse one night. There were some pimps in there that he didn't like. He went up there and pulled a gun and run the whores and pimps and everything out!

RH: He was wild.

CH: He was more than wild. Pulled a big .44 pistol.

RH: The McBrides were all Irish. The Irish liked their liquor.

*Did the law look the other way with the whorehouses?*

RH: Oh, yes. They accepted it; it was part of the town. That was it.

The whorehouse was at the upper end of the town. We always called it the Red Light, but that isn't the first Red Light. The first Red Light was downtown.

CH: When I came from the Old Country in 1920, it was right behind the Biale store. The first Red Light.

RH: Charlie Vaccaro in Eureka lives in the house now that used to be the madam's house.

*How many girls would be there at a time?*

RH: Well, long time ago there was...oh, probably five or six. I don't know for sure. But, do you know what? Two of those women married two boys from Eureka.

*And the town just accepted it?*

RH: Oh, yes. Ed Delaney married one and Henry Rattazzi married the other one. Henry's wife was the one that had the clothing store and the beauty salon.

Ed Delaney's sister should have been down there on the line. In the middle of the night, Sis Delaney used to climb out the window and go down there. Poor Mrs. Delaney.... Then Sis married a guy by the name of Murphy, and they moved to Tonopah. Murphy was Irish, of course.

*So, they had a pretty good business up there with the Basques and a lot of the single guys....*

RH: Oh, yes! They had a good business.

*Did they serve liquor there, too?*

RH: Oh, yes. Sure.

One of my best friends was a prostitute. She was married to Vincent Piccinini for a while. They're divorced. I don't know whatever happened to her. Her name was Rose Fennell. She gave me all kinds of books.

She used to give me things...she was a good friend of mine. Do you know that some of the sweetest people on earth are those prostitutes? They are! You know, you just wonder how did they ever...?

Now, this Billie Delaney didn't have any children. But when she got drunk she reverted back to type...she and the other one, too. Evelyn Rattazzi came from Utah. She had two children in Utah. After she married Henry Rattazzi, she brought her two children over to Eureka. Can you believe that? Where she had been a prostitute, and bring those kids there? I often wonder how many times those kids were told about that.

*But it sounds like the town was pretty tolerant.*

RH: Oh, yes, as far as prostitution was concerned.

*I imagine you had miners who came and went according to the mines, right?*

RH: Oh, yes. There were a lot of those...a lot of Slavs and Bohunks. There was a Mike Gregovich and a Victor Styris...oh, different ones. They'd come over and they'd work; then the mines would close down and everybody would take off again. They'd have to move on.

CH: That's why you had to do whatever came around to have a living.

*In those days in the 1920 and 1930s, the ranches weren't really close to town either.*

RH: No, not too close. Ours was about the closest to town. Fish Creek—that's about 20 miles out of town—was a little ranch. There

were German people about seven miles from Eureka on the way to Ely, at Pinto Station. The Schaefer's were there; they were good friends of ours. Mrs. Schaefer was real good to me. I used to go after wood with Papa, and then we'd come back. We'd get the horses and wagon and we'd stop there. We'd sleep there. She'd take me into the house and give me a bed in the house and Papa would sleep in the bunkhouse.

My cousin fell down a mine shaft and was left crippled. Quite a few people were killed in the mines.

CH: The mines were dangerous.

*Were there any big mine accidents?*

RH: No, I can't remember anything like that. Just single ones, like my brother up at the mine that time he was the only one hurt. They set the dynamite to blast a round, and it didn't go off. He thought it had, and he went back in to work; then it went off and exploded and all the rocks and dirt and everything in his face.

*Was it pretty common for families to have someone who they'd lost, or in an accident anyway?*

RH: Well, not too common, but it did happen.

*What about the Indians around Eureka?*

CH: They worked around town.

RH: A lot of them worked at the mine, too. They worked on the ranches, too. They were just part of us. Everybody accepted them. Nobody looked down on them.

There was an Indian family—the Blair family. Alice Dixon married a Blair, and the Blair family came from Antelope. The Allison family also came from Antelope. The Allison family all married white. Tom Allison's daughters—Bernice, Lucille and Madeline—all three of them married white guys. Tom's sister Mabel had this white guy. Now, whether they were married or not, I don't know.... Charlie Allison was the old guy; he was a super man. His wife was a pure squaw in every way. She was real dark; she would hide and she wouldn't mix with anybody, whereas Charlie Allison would mix with everybody. He had lots of kids. There was Tom, Ben, Archie, Mabel, Bessie and Hattie.... Anyway, Tom's kids were the ones that married whites.

Dixon George was the father and Lilly was the mother of another Indian family. There were six children. They were nice, but Tessie Johnson was very special. She just loved Carlo, and she used to take him pine nuts.

Dixon George came out to the ranch one time. He went to the chicken house, and he was stealing the chickens. Yes! [laughter] The chickens started cackling, and Papa got up, and boy did old Dixon George take off. Let me tell you!

Louis George used to drink a lot before he went to the service. He was a good friend of all of us. One morning I heard somebody come in the back door. He opened it and went right straight down to the basement. I don't know what he was celebrating. Poor guy, he drank so much. He had a little house across the street from our service station. He went to bed drunk one night and he started smoking. His cigarette fell and caught his house on fire, and he burned to death.

*Were the Georges Shoshone or Paiute?*



RH: Oooh...I don't know. I don't think they're Paiute, though.

*Did they live out of town or in town?*

RH: Well, they lived in town in later years.

*Was there a special section where they lived?*

RH: Well, no...not really. They were very accepted.

*Did the Indians gamble at all?*

RH: Indians just drank. They love to drink; never gamble at all.





---

## OPERATING THE EUREKA GARAGE AND A RANCH IN FALLON: 1934-1946

Rose Herrera [RH]: In 1934 Ciriaco went up to the Diamond mine to work. That's when Bill Russell's father-in-law, George Stott, asked Ciriaco to go to work for Mrs. Russell, who owned the Eureka Garage. So he went to work for Nana Russell in 1934.

Nana Russell was a widow. She helped us, and we helped her. She eventually moved to California with her sister. We would send her money every month to live on. Ciriaco took care of the garage and did all the mechanical work and sold gasoline, and, of course, I pumped a lot of gas, too. I did the books and took care of meeting all the bills. Between the two of us we were paid \$175 a month, I think. I had five kids by then. I would go down and pump gas and all the rest of it. At first when Ciriaco was working for Mrs. Russell I didn't have to do too much of that, but then later on I did. She just couldn't afford to hire anybody else.

They had a mortgage on the place, and when Mrs. Russell's husband died, he had a lot of debts. She had a son, but he was worthless. So we did everything we could for

her. Finally, when they were going to foreclose on the mortgage, then we decided that we had to do something. We couldn't pay her off, so we went looking for somebody that would bid on the place so that she wouldn't lose it altogether. Paco asked Martin Segura if he would put up the money for the mortgage. So that's how we got the Eureka Garage. Martin Segura didn't want the garage or anything. He gave us the chance to buy the garage and then to run it and everything, and so we paid him back later. We worked for Mrs. Russell for a long time.

*Was the Eureka Garage a good business in the 1930s?*

RH: Well...not so much.

### **VIOLENCE IN EUREKA**

RH: We were going to go to Ely one day, and I got ready and I went down to the garage to pick Paco up. When I got down there, there were problems.

Ciriaco Herrera [CH]: I opened in the morning, and three guys came in and they wanted to be towed in. So, I asked them, "Where is the car?" They told me where the car was, and I went by myself. So I went out, I got the car, I brought it to the garage. I think it was a coupe. It wasn't running. I put a tube in the tire, and I fixed the rest of it. Rose and I were going to go to Ely. I was going to leave my brother-in-law, and another friend of mine that was at the shop, in the garage. I gave these three guys gas, and one guy stood there by the car, and the other two guys followed me when I went to collect. When I opened the cash register to get the money, one pulled a pipe and hit me across the head. Oh, there was blood all over. But I didn't go down; I hit him and knocked him down, and when the other guys saw that, they both ran to the car and they jumped in the car. I jumped right behind, bleeding like a stuck hog. I jumped in the side of the car and I grabbed where the tire mounting was, and they drug me clear to the courthouse, and a lot of people were watching. So, finally, I had to let go. He had a rifle. He was going to shoot, but he didn't have any time; he wanted to get away, and he got away. Eureka's sheriff called Ely sheriff and told them what had happened, and Ely officers came this way and Eureka officers went the other way, and they caught them.

*Did you feel funny about them to begin with?*

CH: Yes, right. That's why I went to tow their car and didn't take them with me. They wanted to go with me in the worst way. My brother-in-law and the other guy were right there in the shop, and they saw everything. They were just petrified when they saw that blood coming out; they were just scared to death. They never moved.

*Were there other violent incidents in Eureka?*

CH: When Ruby Hill was working, Frank Evans started a fight with a drunk guy, and he knocked him down right on the sidewalk. He hit him, and I thought he killed him. He was a big guy—they both were big guys.

The Eureka Garage was right there straight from the place where they were fighting. I saw when Evans hit him and knocked him down, and then he was walking around like a big shot. So I walked there and I asked him, "What the heck is the matter with you? Why do you hit that man? He's drunk."

But Frank Evans wasn't drunk. He didn't drink. And he said, "Well, you better shut up or go back where you come from."

I said, "What?"

He said, "You better go away."

I just went close to him and hit him. He went down, got up tried to fight again. I hit him again. Finally I left him lying down on the ground.

RH: There was another incident that happened in Eureka. There was a Basque woman who had a bar, Francesca. She was a number one prostitute, let's face it. To begin with, she had one husband, Mike Larragueta. She had two children, Mike and Martin. But she divorced Larragueta, and then she married Frank Olano. Larragueta was there at the bar with her; he was old and he was not well, but he was living there. She was taking care of him. She had this younger man, but the Basco she married was Olano. They used to get into their battles.

Around 1934, Frank Olano was beating the heck out of her, and somebody reported it to the sheriff. The deputy sheriff went over there. The deputy had no business going over there, but he did.

CH: Olano came out with a gun in his hands when the deputy went over there. When he had the gun in his hand, the deputy sheriff went right back. There was a great big wide tree. He got behind the tree, the deputy did.

RH: He shot poor Frank Olano in cold blood. And Frank Olano hadn't fired a shot or anything. Jim Rattazzi wasn't the one that shot Olano—his deputy sheriff, Stanley Fine, did.

*Was there any inquiry?*

RH: They left it go; I mean, that was it.

## THE WAR YEARS

*What were the war years like in Eureka?*

RH: The wartime wasn't a very good time. During wartime everything was rationed. You could only sell so many tires, and you could only sell so many gallons of gas, and then you couldn't sell any more. Paco would go out in the country, you know, and probably work on a well or an engine or something. And I would sit down at the garage...and maybe you might be able to sell parts. You couldn't sell gas; you couldn't sell tires after you had sold your quota. After the war, when the mines opened up and Eureka was booming again, we sold the Eureka Garage and we built the Herrera Service Station.

During the war, while we still owned the Eureka Garage, we bought a ranch in Fallon. We hired people on the ranch to take care of it. The children didn't want to leave Eureka and move to Fallon. They had their friends.... One of the kids was going to live with Grandma. Ciriaco wasn't too happy about leaving Eureka

anyway. I was always for leaving. In fact, when my dad sold our ranch, I didn't want to settle in Eureka, but we did. I figured there weren't any opportunities for kids in Eureka. We did not keep the Fallon ranch too long. Before we built the other station, we sold the ranch.

CH: I make a big mistake in the ranch. I had about 39 to 40 head of cows I put over there, and I stayed home. When I couldn't get more help, I leased it out. I went over to the courthouse at that time...I wonder what the hell we was doing, and the doggone lawyer in Fallon, I made him make the papers. But instead of putting down so many cows and heifers, he make them 39 head of cattle. I didn't have the knowledge to know. They took all my cattle and left 39 calves.

RH: They were the people that were running the place. That was nothing but a robbery.

CH: They was good milk cows there, but you couldn't find somebody to put there and pay them the wages. I'd put them there and pay them the wages, but they'd do just what they felt like. I used to go from Eureka to there to irrigate. I went to Fallon early in the morning, irrigate through the day, come back in the night to Eureka.

RH: We had awful luck. The hands would stay a couple of months, maybe, and then he would have to go down there and irrigate and then come back home. We still had the ranch in 1943 when our last daughter was born.

*Did you still have the Eureka Garage, too?*

RH: Yes. You could just maybe sell an auto part, just to be there. These mining towns,

one minute they're going good, and the next minute they're gone. Eureka was always like that. People stayed in Eureka waiting for the boom. They stayed there, lived there, and died there waiting for the boom. And it boomed all right. It went.... Oh, they've got gold mines going now, and I hope they go forever. It has proven otherwise. For a while everything is going good, and then all of a sudden everything is gone.

*You mentioned that back then you can't remember a single time going down to the cafe to eat dinner.*

RH: No. We did not go out to eat. I can't even remember one time. I went home and did the dishes, made the beds, cooked the dinner, got all ready for the next day, and got all the kids off to school. We had the Eureka Garage, and we had the ranch. We must have sold both of them about the same time in 1945 or 1946. Anyway, then Paco had three trucks and was hauling coal. He thought he was going to go in the mining business. He had all these friends that were mining, and he was supplying them all the coal and all the rest of it. That was before we built the other garage.

\* \* \* \* \*

RH: We bought the Tobin house in 1946. It was on the south end of town on Main Street, not too far from where we lived first. It was a beautiful house. It was the nicest home in Eureka at that time, and probably still is. It was the house of C. L. Tobin, the banker. It had three bedrooms and a bath, a living room, dining room, kitchen, dinette and laundry room, and a full basement. It was like a hotel to us. We were cramped with our six kids in that little house that we had. In 1946,

Elaine was already 19, and all the kids were all getting up there so that before we knew it, most of them were gone. Maynard stayed home, but Carlo went off to school, and Teddy and Bobby and Elaine got married. Maynard was the only one that was home with us most of the time. Of course, they came and went, but we should have had the big house when they were all smaller.

*It sounds like those years were prosperous years.*

RH: Oh, yes. We never did hurt too much anyway. We worked hard, seven days a week, but we always ate good and we had a good place. We were healthy, which is the most important thing.

We went to Mexico in 1953. That time we had Maynard and Carl to take care of the place. We went in July, and we were gone about a month. And then we used to come to Reno once in a while to visit our daughter, Elaine, after she moved away from Eureka in 1953.

We came to Reno in 1956 on Thanksgiving. Teddy was working in Eureka in the mine, and his wife was in Elko. She wanted him to come to Elko, and he didn't want to go to Elko, and I said, "Well, we're going to Reno, so you might as well go to Elko." He went to Elko and we came to Reno, and three days later he was killed in a mine accident. We came down here for Thanksgiving, and went home on Sunday. He came home from Elko on Sunday night, and he was killed on Wednesday. He was the only one that was hurt.

---

## THE HERRERA SERVICE STATION: 1946-1960

Rose Herrera [RH]: We built the Herrera Service Station in 1946. And then later in 1948 Paco built what we called the Siesta Lodge—10 units of motel. The Herrera Service Station always dealt with Union Oil. We had wholesale and retail gasoline, diesel and propane, and we had a tow service. We would deliver gas and diesel and propane to all the outlying ranches and even to Austin. We had two places in Austin, and we used to go to Beowawe and down south.

I said I'd never pump any more gas, but I did keep the books. Every five days I had to have a report out. The auditor would come, and I'd have to stay up till 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning with the books. I enjoy that kind of work, though. When you have a family to raise, and you have a house to keep.... We never closed the garage. Seven long days a week, with no people working for us. We could close the place, but if they wanted you, they came and got you. A lot of times you didn't come home until 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning if there was something urgent that somebody needed, or something else. But we

never had to hire anybody except when we took vacations. Every summer we would go for a couple of weeks up to the sheep camp up in Lewis Canyon, out of Battle Mountain. We enjoyed that more than anything, I think, that we ever did. It was the kids and us alone at the sheep camp, and that's when we would have to hire somebody to take care of the garage for us. I would go down to the station and make bills. At the end of the month I'd have to send out all the statements.

*Was your son Bob helping out then?*

RH: He went to the service in 1951. When he came back in 1953 and got married, he was working for us, but he wasn't too happy. He was always around here and there. But he did help. He was still working there, I guess, when his brother was killed in 1956.

Ciriaco Herrera [CH]: The propane business was a good business at that time. I was buying for 9 cents and selling for 18 cents.

RH: Everybody was buying propane at that time.

CH: After I built the garage and the service station, I was delivering gas, delivering propane and doing the mechanic work. I had more work than I could handle. When Mount Hope mine started, I had a chance to make good money, and I sold the garage for \$21,000. I'd been at it too long, but as long as I had it, I paid all the bills, and I come out with \$21,000 plus \$6,000 that I had already put away when I was in the Eureka Garage. So afterwards I went out into the trucking business.

*What other garages were in Eureka when you had Herrera Service?*

CH: Rebeleati and McBride, and Eureka Garage was still there—the one I sold. There were three places. But, see, then the sheepmen was coming back and forth, and all the sheepmen went to me—Pete Etcheverry, Jim Ithuralde, Beltran Arambel, Louie Goyenette....

*Did the other owners resent the fact you had all that Basque trade?*

RH: Oh, yes, yes. Oh, this Frank McBride was really nasty. You'd have to wait all year, you know, for your money from the sheepmen. But we had some of the local people, and we had tourists. That way we were able to keep the Basque sheepmen going. They had money only in a certain time of the year; you would have to carry them a full year, because the only time they would be able to get any money is when they would sell their lambs in the fall or sell their wool in the spring. But there were years when they wouldn't be able to sell their wool, either, because the wool wouldn't be high enough, so they would just put it on

consignment and they wouldn't get their money until later. Their income was all from lambs and the wool. And that's the way we operated.

*Did you ever lose out on a deal?*

CH: Not too much. Not with sheepmen. I lost with one of them, Louie Goyenette. I still got it coming...about \$3,000. When he went broke in Ely, he came to Eureka and moved to Red Bluff, California. He didn't have anything, and he had three girls. I sent my boy, Bobby, to Red Bluff, California, with my truck filled up with gas. He filled up the other truck with gas, and I sent the sheepman over to where he was going to.

*Moved him?*

CH: Yes. He went broke in Ely. He didn't have a thing but his wife and the three kids. And I never did get paid for that.

*Did you have the mine business, too?*

RH: We had some. If not, we wouldn't have been able to carry those Basques all through for the whole year. You know, that's quite a while to carry somebody. They would buy gas, oil, propane and diesel. Then you'd go out to their ranch and fix their well, or you'd go out and do something else.

*It sounds like a difficult bookkeeping situation.*  
[laughter]

RH: Well, it wasn't that hard, but you had to watch what you were doing. Later, when we went from being a dealer to a distributorship, then we didn't have to go through the audits.

*Was it better when you were free of being accountable to Union Oil?*



RH: Oh, yes. I enjoy book work, but every five days you have to make a report, and then you get audited. It was lots easier later.

*How did the tow service work?*

RH: Well, if there was a wreck somewhere or if somebody was stuck someplace, we just had to go out. It was a dollar a mile. I stayed and pumped gas while he was out getting trucks or cars. A lot of times the sheepmen had wells, and something would happen to the well, and Ciriaco would have to go out and fix that, or else fix a truck or something out on the ranch if he couldn't make them bring it into town. He'd go clear to Duckwater and clear over to Roberts Creek and Fish Creek.

*So a lot of people depended on you.*

RH: Yes. Sometimes I would go with him. My brother Angelo worked for us. Don Saylor would work when I would go with Paco sometimes, when he would deliver gas. I didn't stay at the station as much as I did at the Eureka Garage. We covered an area from Eureka to Austin, which is 70 miles from Eureka. And we went to Beowawe, which is another 100 miles—probably about a radius of 100 miles.

CH: My garage was open seven days a week. Any time somebody come in the night, I used to go out. Like, in 1936, I left to go and get a two-ton International truck that broke down between Austin and Eureka.

RH: That was Hiram Kitchen that owned the grocery store in Eureka. He used to come to Reno and get groceries. And on the way back he broke down.

CH: So I left with another guy and two trucks. I drove one truck, and two guys were

alongside with gasoline torches. When I got back at 2:30 in the morning it was forty-some-odd below zero. I was using those torches, and they would keep the ice off the windshield. And the guy who was alongside the driver had a torch going all the time inside the cab just to keep the frost out. Finally, I got into Eureka at 2:30 in the morning.

RH: That was the year three people got out in that snowstorm and froze to death between Antelope and Eureka.

*Wasn't it difficult running cars and machinery with all that cold in the winter?*

CH: Well, you had prestone and hot water, but if you stopped 10 minutes, the water would freeze.

RH: It was very hard. There was a lot of snow on the ground, and people just didn't get around very well. You had to have chains, and it was bad.

*I bet you had a big business in the winter, too.*  
[laughs]

CH: Oh, yes. Especially putting chains on the tires and one thing and another. It's quite a bit of business. In our time it was low pay. You weren't making any money.

RH: In 1960 we moved to Reno so our youngest daughter could finish school. Our son Bob kept the garage after 1960. He worked for us. He didn't have anything to do with it until we left there for Reno in 1960. He paid us rent until we sold it in 1969. Bobby was up there in Eureka in the 1960s, but he didn't live in the house. Maynard had a room there, and he stayed up there with Bobby working in the garage. He didn't want to come to Reno at first.

CH: My nephew used to be on the ranch at Antelope. When I quit and turned the garage over to Bobby, the nephew came to Bobby and he said, "How is it that your dad never charged me half as much as you do?" Of course, everything was going up.

RH: Well, you weren't charging as much as the other garages either.

CH: No, I wasn't. I felt sorry for the people. I could have made a lot more money, but...

*So, you ran your business according to people's needs and...*

CH: My own knowledge.



---

EPILOGUE

Rose Herrera [RH]: We moved to Reno in July of 1960, and we rented a place on South Virginia. Then we were looking for a place of our own. Well, I wanted a home, and he wanted something else, because he was running back and forth to Eureka every so often to do things up there. So, anyway, he wanted some kind of an income. So he bought this little motel, and named it C.R. Motel. I was so unhappy with the thing. There were five units and then a little house in the back. But when he was gone, I had to take care of that by myself. A lot of times I was there renting rooms at night. Elaine used to worry so much about me, because on the weekends I would be renting rooms all by myself. God... one night I went to rent a room, and I went out the door and I didn't have the keys, and I locked myself out. I didn't have a dime to go to the telephone booth to make a call. I don't know how I finally got in. And Ciriaco used to worry about me, because I was by myself.

We kept the home in Eureka. I didn't want to sell it; I wanted to move it down here. I didn't want to rent it because I figured they

would just wreck it all. Most of our belongings were left up there. Anyway, we didn't sell the Tobin house until just before we bought our present house.

*You were pretty much retired then?*

RH: No, no. A woman never retires. I had a friend and she said, "Oh, Rose, I'm retired." Her husband had passed away, and she was all thrilled. Her kids were raised. And I said, "Laverne, a woman never retires. You've still got the beds to make, the dishes to wash, the cooking."

*When you went over on your trip to Europe you saw where your families were from...Santander, and all through there.*

CH: We went all over. I had my son with me.

RH: When our daughter graduated, we took her to Europe. Her fiancé was over there. He'd gone over there two or three

months before. So we met him over there and we gave her the trip. We went over there in August, and she was engaged to be married in December. He helped us a whole lot, because he could take us and find the places to stay, like those pensiones and cheaper places, good places, you know, where to go and what to do.

*Had Spain changed a lot since when you were a boy?*

CH: Spain was different from when I was a boy. I didn't care for it at all. I had never seen Italy before, but we went to a lot of nice places in Italy.

RH: We went to Rome and we went to the Vatican.

CH: We went all over. We went to Spain, and I'd never been to France, and from France we went to Italy. From Italy we went to Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Was life in Eureka good?*

RH: Up there, when you'd go downtown in Eureka you wouldn't lock the door even then. When our children were growing up, as each one of them came home, they would come in the bedroom before they went to bed. I can still remember that. Such a good feeling, you know. Still going on.... I can remember when my mother passed away in 1953, everybody came to the house and brought food. And then when my brother, Baptista, passed away in 1955, we had so much food we didn't know what to do with it all. There was a bar downtown, Louie's Bar, and there were so many flowers at the funeral, the whole bar was full. People came from all

over the state, because he died in Carson, and he was an assemblyman. When our son died in 1956, all the same thing.

*So the town was family?*

RH: Oh, yes.

*Do you think your life would have been a lot different if, as a young woman, you would've gone to Elko or to Reno?*

RH: Who knows. It probably would have been. If I would have gone to school, and went on to teach school, it would have been altogether different, probably. But I stayed there and met Paco, and that was it. I was only 18 years old. But if we'd have gone on to Elko or come on down to Reno amongst people, and I would have been able to go to school, maybe I would have taught. That's what I wanted to do, and that's what my dad wanted me to do. Oh, he was going to make a teacher out of me. But without money, what do you do, you know? If he would have let me go with my home economics teacher back to Ames, Iowa, to the university back there...

*How were you so exceptional that she wanted to take you back there?*

RH: Well, because I always had good grades. My father just didn't want me to go away, but I wish he would have let me.

*Was that a real disappointment to you?*

RH: Yes. I would have loved to have gone. Anything relating to school, I was interested.

*School seems really important to you. Knowing what you know now, is there any advice you'd give your grandchildren?*

RH: I have grandchildren...each and every one of them, I do believe, has had a chance to go on to college or the university. Some have gone and some haven't. I have grandchildren that went to college, have a profession. They're not happy just with one profession; they want to keep on and they have to have more schooling. Fine. But I think if you get one profession and you could make money, why not go on your own and not depend on your parents? If I would have had the chance that my grandchildren have... good grief! I can't believe it.

It's important to do it on your own. To begin with, if you are helped, OK; then after you get so far, then go on your own, you're on your feet. Now, my daughter had four children. All four of her children went to college and two are still in college. One graduated from Notre Dame, and he's at St. Louis becoming a doctor. The other one is still in college. I don't know what he's going to do. One of them became a coach, and the girl, of course, she got married.

Then Teddy's two kids. Tom became a chiropractor, and he had to do it more or less on his own, because they didn't have much of anything. Now, the younger Ted has graduated from Old College. He graduated as a lawyer. Then, of course, Maynard was never married.

Bobby's son went to the university. He graduated and he's got a job. He's in real estate. He's doing OK. They're all doing OK.

Then there's Carlo's children. Mike became a dentist; Carla became a dental hygienist. She could work as a dental hygienist at \$160 a day. One hundred and sixty dollars a day for five days—that's \$800! You mean to tell me that you can't save enough, if you want to go back to school, to become a dentist or something else? If she had the gumption that her father had.... Instead of that, she's having her father

pay her way to go to school, to go ahead. And I've told him, she had one profession; wasn't that enough? Let her do something with the one she has.

Then, Tony. Well, he's still going to school. I don't know what he's going to do. He went to mechanics school, but he didn't do anything with it. Now he wants to become a chiropractor or something, so he's going to San Francisco to classes. And he's already 25 years old, so pretty soon he'd better do something with himself. Then there's Marcelle. She's still in school. I don't think she cares about school.

If I had just a fourth of the opportunity they had.... If I just could have gone to normal school, so I could start teaching, I would have been happy. They've got too much.

Our boy Carl was in hot water most of the time. Yes. The justice of the peace would come to the house, and he'd sit down and say, "You know, that kid is either going to end up in jail or else he's going to be something wonderful. Or he's going to end up in jail and be just a pure criminal." Oh, God. I can remember that. He used to tell me that all the time.

CH: He is the smartest boy that we had.

RH: He went to school. You know, the others didn't want to go to school. He applied himself. He was very conscientious and wanted to go to school and high school, and he made the most of it. I mean, he just didn't fool around; he went to school.

Carl went to the University of Nevada first, and then he went to USC [University of Southern California] and graduated down there. He graduated on the ninth of June of 1956. He went to the church and he got married at 7:30 that morning down in Lomita, California. From there we went up to Los

Angeles to USC, and he graduated at 10:00 a.m. And at graduation he enlisted in the Air Corps. I was so mad at him I could have killed him. I suggested that after he graduated, all of us would go for a month to Canada. And he pulls that trick on me—he gets married and he joins the Air Corps.

CH: Before he was going to school, I gave him an old Chevrolet that we got in the garage. When he was 15 years old, he had \$1,500 in the bank.

RH: He had this little old car, and he made like a little old truck out of it, you know, and he hauled garbage, et cetera.

CH: He used to get up at 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning and go work in the bars and clean the bars. He was a working fool all the time.

*Did he always want to become a dentist?*

RH: No. While in high school there was a salesman who used to come up from Salt Lake who sold suits and blankets and stuff like that—J. R. McDonald. I bought a lot of things from him. He and I got our heads together one time, and he said something to me about Carl becoming a dentist. And so that's where we started. Then when he came to the University of Nevada, he had that in mind. Of course, it was awful hard for him, like it was for me going from the ranch school to Eureka. From a small school like Eureka, coming down here to Reno at the university was very, very hard for him. In fact, two or three times he was going to do anything else but. He was going to go into forestry. He was going to do anything rather than go to school. But he stuck it out.

CH: We used to try pretty often to keep him at the university, because he wanted to work in the forest for the government.

RH: Well, that's what he thought would be easier than becoming a dentist, but I wouldn't pay any attention. I kept talking him out of it. We just figured that dentistry would be a better profession. He thought about becoming a lawyer, and I always said, "Don't become a lawyer, because if you're crooked to begin with, then you just get crooked." So I didn't go for a lawyer either, and we have everything in the family but a lawyer. Well, we may have a lawyer, too, if our grandson ever gets his bar taken and that.

Elaine went to school. She didn't like it; she was homesick. She fooled around until she quit. And Teddy wouldn't go to school—he just wouldn't go. Bobby...oh, forget it. To get Bobby to go to high school was.... Later on, after he went into the service, then Bobby got into the mechanic business, but he's a worker, too. Then our youngest daughter, Beni (Bernardine), went to school, and she became a dental hygienist.

*You said earlier that when the Tognoni family moved from the ranch, you wished your dad had gone on to Elko. Do you think that kind of country-city sort of thing made some of your kids want to stick around Eureka a little bit longer?*

RH: Well, yes...like Bobby, you know. Teddy suffered from arthritis, and we thought if he'd get out of the mine, he could go to school. He had a friend, a young man from Eureka, that was going to the business college. We told Teddy, "Why don't you go to business school? If you go down there, you are not alone. Joe is down there." And, oh, absolutely not.

It was easier for Carlo. He grasped everything faster than any of them. He had different values. Our youngest daughter is like that also, you know, but Elaine just didn't

want to go to school and be away from home. She just was homesick. Now Bobby is more the kind to get out and fool around and have a good time and that. It didn't work too well. When Carlo was down at the University of Nevada, he didn't even go to Pyramid Lake. He didn't even know where Pyramid Lake was or anything. He just stayed up at that university and studied and studied and studied. Then he went to USC. He went down there for four years and graduated number one in his class in 1956. Only bad thing about Carlo is he's a workaholic. You have to have a certain amount of work, but then forget it—you can't make it all work.

*Do you think there's a difference in attitude and ideas between your children and your grandchildren?*

RH: Oh, definitely. You know, Carlo went to school, but in the summer he worked. When he went to USC, he went to live at a place, and he did the janitor work at this place, besides going to school. He and Beni and Elaine had the checkbook, but we didn't have to worry—they weren't going to break us. A lot of times, maybe they needed a dollar, they wouldn't make a check.

CH: They had the same account that we had in business. They could make a check; that's why we gave them the checkbook.

RH: Kids need help to a certain extent, but you have to do it on your own also. Don't just depend on having it dished out to you.

\* \* \* \* \*

CH: I work always like hell. Anything I could see I could make money. The Eureka Garage I bought for \$9,000. I sold it for \$21,000.

Besides I was two or three years there...all the bills paid and \$6,000 clear. Rose was a good bookkeeper; she's still a good bookkeeper. I don't make the check. She does it all!

I always preferred to work for myself. If I could make a dollar for the other guy, I could make \$2 for myself. I never had any help—only from Martin Segura. Yes. I work hard, never drink, never smoke. All I done is work. I raised a family and I'm not sorry. I feel 100 percent. I got good family and still in health at this age. Times have changed a lot in 60 years.

*Would you say that your grandsons' lives are really different than yours was?*

CH: Yes, a lot of difference. At that time there was no money, there was nothing. You just lived with what you had. We only had a few cows in Spain, and we used to carry the milk to Santander all the time. One of the sisters used to go over and bring the milk and bring some groceries back to eat and stuff. That was the way we lived. My grandsons in Reno, they got it made!

RH: They're not on their own; they have somebody to protect them, somebody to do for them that's altogether different than what you had.

CH: I didn't have experience enough for anything, because you have nothing to get experience out of it. I learned by myself because I only went to school 13 months; that's how long I went to school. Well, you didn't have the opportunity in Spain like you have here. If you want to live you have to work, and that's what I had to do. When I had one job and lose that, and there was no more work, I had to try to find something else regardless what. I never regret of what I done.





---

## PHOTOGRAPHS



Rose Herrera's father, Giovanni Antonio Tognoni, in front of the Brown Hotel, now known as the Jackson House, in Eureka, ca. 1907. (Courtesy of Rose Herrera)



Interior of the Otto Mau store in Eureka, ca. 1920s.  
(Courtesy of Special Collections, University of Nevada, Reno Library)





Ciriaco and Eduardo Herrera with Eduardo's  
wife, Kate Herrera (nee Morse), ca. 1921.  
(Courtesy of Ciriaco Herrera)



The Tognoni family in 1925, in Eureka. Back row (l to r): Elmo; Rose (Herrera); Elva. Front row (l to r): Angelo; Rose's mother, Bernardina, holding Joe; Gladys; Rose's father, Giovanni Antonio, holding Pauline; and Baptista. (Courtesy of Rose Herrera)



The Tobin House in Eureka, purchased by the Herrera family about 1946.  
(Courtesy of Rose and Ciriaco Herrera)



The Eureka Theatre, a popular gathering spot, in 1950.  
(Courtesy of Nevada Department of Transportation)

---

## APPENDIX A: FAMILY CHRONOLOGY

*See next page.*

### FAMILY CHRONOLOGY<sup>1</sup>

#### CIRIACO HERRERA AND HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

Eduardo Herrera.....	ca. 1883
Incarnación Herrera.....	ca. 1889
Serafina Herrera.....	ca. 1891
Aurora Herrera.....	ca. 1893
Valentina Herrera.....	22 or 23 May 1895
Evalinda Herrera.....	ca. 1900
Antonio Herrera.....	5 June 1902
CIRIACO HERRERA.....	6 June 1904

#### ROSE TOGNONI AND HER BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

ROSE CECILIA TOGNONI HERRERA.....	9 August 1908
Elva Aileen Tognoni Recend.....	5 December 1909
Guglielmo Victor Tognoni.....	13 November 1911
Baptista Maynard Tognoni.....	6 March 1914
Gladyce Nevada Tognoni Gonzalez.....	27 June 1916
Angelo Charles Tognoni.....	26 June 1918
Pauline Josephine Tognoni Siri.....	20 October 1923
Joseph Aristu Tognoni.....	6 April 1926

---

<sup>1</sup> This chronology is not representative of a complete family genealogy.



DESCENDANTS OF CIRIACO AND ROSE TOGNONI HERRERA:<sup>2</sup>

+	Elaine Frances Herrera Jaureguito.....	10 March	1927
	D Jacqueline Rose Jaureguito Compston....	3 January	1947
	ø Yvette Rose Compston.....	7 May	1967
	ø Toynette Marie Compston.....	19 December	1968
	D Timothy Paco Jaureguito.....	13 October	1953
	ø Talia Marie Jaureguito.....	4 June	1981
	ø Jeremy Paco Jaureguito.....	21 December	1982
	D John William Jaureguito.....	20 August	1963
	D Joel Theodore Jaureguito.....	28 January	1966
+	Theodore Elmer Herrera.....	17 April	1928
	D Thomas Theodore Herrera.....	7 October	1951
	D Theodore Ciriaco Herrera.....	1 December	1952
+	Robert Ciriaco Herrera.....	8 September	1929
	D Robert Carl Herrera.....	16 April	1961
+	Maynard Antonio Herrera.....	17 January	1931
+	Carl Melchoir Herrera.....	25 November	1932
	D Michael James Herrera.....	31 July	1958
	D Carla Marie Herrera.....	28 December	1959
	D Anthony Carl Herrera.....	14 September	1964
	D Marcelle Rose Herrera.....	20 April	1965
+	Bernardine Rose Herrera Fein.....	25 September	1943
	D Natasha Michelle Fein.....	9 March	1972
	D Noelle Jacqueline Fein.....	14 April	1974
	D Nicole Rose Fein.....	12 May	1977

---

<sup>2</sup> + denotes children of Ciriaco and Rose Herrera  
D denotes grandchildren of Ciriaco and Rose Herrera  
ø denotes great-grandchildren of Ciriaco and Rose Herrera





---

## APPENDIX B: REGIONAL SPANISH FOLK POEMS

*See next page.*

## APPENDIX B

Some Regional Spanish Folk Poems from Santander  
As recited by Ciriaco Herrera

1. "Aunque la mona se vista de seda, mona se queda."  
["A monkey dressed in silk is still a monkey".]
2. "Tengo, tengo, tengo; tú no tienes nada.  
Tengo tres ovejas en una cabaña:  
La una me da leche, la otra me da lana  
y la otra me mantiene toda la semana..."  
["I have, have, have: You don't have anything.  
I have three sheep in a hut.  
One gives me milk, the other gives me wool.  
and I live on the last one all week long."]
3. "En el monte, La Tolosa, había una mala cosa,  
Llena de cocos y cocas y benditos malos. La Virgen de  
Pañapalucos decía que había que atarlos;  
A los lados apiñados, en el cocote repolote, (sic)  
en los demás--pelar y andar."  
["On the mountain, La Tolosa, there was an evil thing,  
Full of devils and holy demons.  
The Virgin of Pañapalucos said that they had to be  
killed;  
Pull the hair from the sides out in fistfuls, from the  
top in a knot,  
the rest of them--skin them and take off."]
4. "Había un viejo y una vieja que dormían juntos  
porque tenían miedo a los difuntos."  
["There was an old man and an old woman who slept  
together because they were afraid of the dead."]
5. "Cosa bien aprendida, nunca se le olvida."  
["Anything learned well is never forgotten."]

6. "Paco peco, chico rico, insultaba como un loco a su amigo Federico,  
y ese dijo-poco a poco-Paco pecho-poco pico."  
  
["Sinful Paco, rich spoiled child, insulted his friend Federico like an insane person,  
and he said, 'Little by little sinful Paco, little beak.'"]
7. "En el camino de San Juan, unos vienen y otros van."  
["On the San Juan highway some are coming and some are going."]
8. "Qué gente lleva mi carro, dos putas y un boticario."  
  
["What sort of people my car carries--two prostitutes and one pharmacist."]
9. "En boca cerrada-no entran moscas."  
  
["In a closed mouth flies don't enter." (Keep your mouth shut and the flies won't enter.)]
10. "El que tiene boca se equivoca y el que tiene culo sopla."  
  
["He who has a mouth will make mistakes, and he who has an anus will pass wind."]
11. "Pan con pan, comida de bobos  
Si me da un pan, un pan como  
Si me da dos panes, dos panes como, etc.  
  
["Bread with bread, the food of fools,  
If they give me one loaf of bread I eat one loaf of bread,  
If they give me two loaves of bread I eat two loaves of bread. etc."]
12. "Estaba un tigre comiendo trigo,  
Vino otro tigre y le comió el trigo."  
  
["There was a tiger eating wheat,  
Another tiger came and ate the wheat."]  
  
(A tongue twister like "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.")

13. "Ojos blancos son traidores, azules son lisonjeros,  
ojitos acastañados son leales y verdaderos."

["Light eyes are traitors, blue are false,  
Brown eyes are loyal and truthful."]

14. "Con despacio y con saliva,  
Le metía el elefante a la hormiga."

["Slowly and with saliva,  
The elephant slipped it into the ant."]

15. "A, B, C, la cartilla no la sé,  
No me pegue Señor maestro,  
Que mañana la aprenderé."

["A, B, C, the lesson I don't know,  
Don't beat me Mr. teacher,  
For tomorrow I will learn it.]

---

## ORIGINAL INDEX: FOR REFERENCE ONLY

In order to standardize the design of all UNOHP transcripts for the online database, they have been reformatted, a process that was completed in early 2012. This document may therefore differ in appearance and pagination from earlier printed versions. Rather than compile entirely new indexes for each volume, the UNOHP has made each transcript fully searchable electronically. If a previous version of this volume existed, its original index has been appended to this document for reference only. A link to the entire catalog can be found online at <http://oralhistory.unr.edu/>.

## A

Allison family, 60-61

## B

Basques, 35, 36-38, 40,  
46, 50, 51, 52, 66-67,  
74-75  
Biale (Albert) family, 51,  
52, 57  
Blair family, 60  
Brennan, Dr., 25, 31  
Businesses/services  
(Eureka), 20; banks, 20,  
21; bars, 28-30, 31;  
blacksmith shop, 20;  
garages, 20, 63-65, 67-  
68, 69, 72-74, 75-78,  
88; hotels, 17-18, 24-  
25, 28, 34, 35, 36, 52-  
53, 72; stores, 16, 20,  
24, 46, 56, 58, 76

## C

C. R. Motel (Reno), 79  
Carter brothers, 47-49  
Cattle industry, 45-46,  
68; range use disputes,  
45-46  
Chinese, 30, 52-56

## D

Damele family, 51  
Delaney, Jack, 29-31, 56,  
57  
Delaney family, 29-31, 56,  
57, 58  
Depression (U.S.), 17, 21  
Donnelly family, 56

## E

Eather, Edgar, 17, 19, 31  
English, 49-50, 51-52  
Eureka Garage, 63-65, 67-  
68, 69, 88  
Eureka Hotel, 24, 25, 28,  
52-53, 54  
Evans, Frank, 65-66

## F

Fein, Bernardine Rose  
"Beni" (née Herrera),  
87, 88, 92  
Fennell, Rose, 58  
Fine, Stanley, 67  
Florio, A. C., 20, 24, 40,  
45-49; family, 46-47

## G

Gambling, 28, 29, 53, 56  
George family, 8, 61  
Germans, 13-14, 49, 50,  
51, 59  
Ghiringelli, Angelo, 31  
Goyenette, Louie, 74-75

## H

Herrera, Ciriaco "Paco":  
brothers and sisters,  
24-27, 91; children/  
grandchildren, 33, 38,  
39, 55-56, 70, 71, 73,  
75, 77-78, 80, 82, 83-  
88, 92; education, 23,  
89; employment, 27-31,  
33-34, 40, 41, 47-49,  
63-65, 67-70, 71, 72-78,  
79, 88-90; marriage, 33;



move to Reno, 79;  
parents, 22-23, 25;  
Spanish sayings of, 93-  
95; sports/recreation,  
28; youth/childhood, 23,  
26, 27, 28  
Herrera, Carlo "Carl," 39,  
55-56, 70, 71, 84-86,  
87-88, 92; family, 39,  
83-85, 92  
Herrera, Eduardo "Ed," 20-  
21, 24-25, 26, 31, 91;  
family, 24, 26  
Herrera, Francesca (née  
Palomera), 22-23  
Herrera, Kate, 24, 26  
Herrera, Maynard, 39, 70,  
71, 78, 83, 92  
Herrera, Melchoir, 22, 23,  
25  
Herrera, Robert "Bobby,"  
39, 70, 73, 75, 77-78,  
86-87, 92; family, 39,  
83, 92  
Herrera, Rose (née  
Tognoni): ancestors, 1-  
4; brothers and sisters,  
4-9, 16-17, 76, 81, 91;  
children/grandchildren,  
33, 38, 39, 55-56, 70,  
71, 73, 75, 77-78, 80,  
82, 83-88, 92; educa-  
tion, 11, 18-19, 82;  
employment, 15, 16-18,  
33-35, 36, 38, 63-64,  
67-68, 69, 70, 71, 72-  
74, 75-76, 77-78, 79,  
88-89; marriage, 33;  
move to Reno, 79;  
parents, 1-4, 6, 8, 10,  
12, 13, 16-17, 21, 34,  
39, 50, 51, 81, 82;  
religion, 14-15; youth/  
childhood, 6-21  
Herrera, Theodore "Teddy,"  
38, 39, 70, 71, 86, 87,  
92; family, 39, 83, 92  
Herrera Service Station,  
68, 72-74, 75-78; towing  
service, 76-77  
Hildebrandt family, 13-14

## I

Indians, 8, 60-62  
Irish, 56-57, 58  
Italian Creek, 6, 10-11  
Italians, 10-11, 14, 49-  
51, 52

## J

Jaureguito, Elaine (née  
Herrera), 33, 39, 70,  
71, 86, 87, 88, 92;  
family, 39, 83, 92

## K

Kitchen family, 12-13, 76

## L

Larragueta, Mike, 66

## M

Mines and mining, 27, 28,  
45, 59, 60, 67-68, 69  
Morse family, 20, 54

## O

O'Connor family, 56-57  
Olano, Francesca, 66  
Olano, Frank, 66-67

## P

Prohibition, 27, 28-29, 40  
Prostitution, 57-59, 66

## R

Ranches and ranching, 6-7,  
10-11, 13, 38, 46, 59,

68-69; at Antelope, 27;  
Canepa (now Fiorenzi),  
6-7, 10-13, 15-16; in  
Fallon, 68-69; at  
Italian Creek, 6, 10-11;  
water disputes, 10-11  
Rattazzi, Evelyn, 58-59  
Ruby Hill mining district,  
28, 51-52  
Russell, Nana, 63

## V

Violent incidents, 29-31,  
37, 46, 47-49, 64-67

## W

World War II, 67

## S

Schaefer family, 59-60  
Segura, Martin, 26, 27, 64  
Segura family, 26, 27  
Sheep industry, 24, 40,  
74; range use disputes,  
45-46, 47-49  
Simpson Creek. See  
Italian Creek  
Slavs, 59  
Star Hotel, 17-18, 34, 35,  
36

## T

Tobin, C. L.; house, 70,  
79  
Tognoni, Antonio "Tony,"  
2-4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13,  
16-17, 21, 34, 50, 51,  
82  
Tognoni, Bernardina "Lena"  
(née Caviglia), 1-2, 3,  
8, 10, 12, 13, 16-17,  
39, 81  
Transportation, 7, 20, 41-  
42, 43-45

## U

Uriarte, Louisa, 17, 18,  
33, 34, 35  
Uriarte family, 33, 34, 35



